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AND
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EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Another anti-Catholic riot is reported in Taichoufu.

The s.s. *Veteran*, late *Thales*, is now named *Yatsu-ura Maru*.

Japan's rice crop last year was 21.5 per cent. above the average.

The Shanghai Municipal Council is teaching Chinese the art of bricklaying.

The Shanghai A.D.C. is transcending all records with "Monieur Beaucaire."

Professor Emil Schultz, who was visiting Shanghai, has died in hospital there.

The number of Chinese servants on the Peak is officially put at two thousand.

Chang Chih-tung is the latest believer in the "yellow peril." He dreads a gold currency.

Hongkong Volunteers are now supplied with little silver dragons to be placed on the helmets.

Major Nerazzini, Italian Consul at Shanghai, receives the Order of the Double Dragon, for services to China.

The *Chitose Maru*, a well-known Japanese steamer, has been run down and sunk, during a snowstorm in the north.

The tug-boat *Samson* has been sold by Mr. Bennet Burleigh to its former owners, the Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co.

The *Mainichi* reports that the Emperor of Corea has asked to be admitted a member of the Christian Church (Roman Catholic).

The *Chfoo Daily News* says that the coolie steamer *Swanley* has been chartered to take home convalescents from Port Arthur.

It is officially announced that Dr. F. Gröne has been appointed Assistant Health Officer of the Port vice Dr. A. F. Forster resigned.

The minutes of the last committee meeting of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce are wholly taken up with correspondence re mail delays.

The Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co. Ltd. made a profit of Tls. 26,545.60 last year. A dividend of ten per cent. and a bonus of two per cent. are being paid.

Since the Sanitary authorities began their campaign against the mosquito the death rate from malaria has been reduced to half what it stood at four years ago.

Mr. Henri Vinay, exchange broker, residing in the French concession at Shanghai committed suicide on 13th March by shooting himself with a revolver.

In one week, ending Feb. 24th, the Shanghai police apprehended or summoned 1,675 persons for various offences the favourite misdemeanour being the committal of nuisances.

A Chinaman at Singapore committed suicide by cutting his throat with a piece of glass. Before he died, he explained that the soul of his dead wife had been troubling him.

The Japanese Government has placed an order with the North British Locomotive Combine, Glasgow, for fifty powerful locomotives, which are to be delivered with all possible speed.

The German steamer *Erna* struck an uncharted rock near Ceylon on her outward voyage and will probably go into dock in order that the extent of the damage may be ascertained.

It is reported that the Chinese Government have ordered the torpedo-gunboat *Feiyang* to clear away the mines floating off the Shantung Coast.

The s.s. *Proteus* was placed under arrest on March 16. The owners of the s.s. *Venetia* claim \$90,000 damages caused by the collision between the vessels, off Good Hope Cape on the 14th inst.

Dr. Atkinson left for Home on leave by the last P. & O. steamer. The Sanitary Board staff were waiting at Queen's Statue Wharf to say good-bye to him, but the Doctor boarded a launch at Blake Pier.

The *N. C. Daily News*, reporting a stabbing affray on the American sailing vessel *Wm. P. Frye*, says "These affrays all seem to be due to the imbibing of Hongkong whisky." The bad liquor is smuggled on board.

The *Chefoo Daily News* reports that a mine washed ashore on the beach about five miles east of Chefoo. A passing mafoo hit one of the spikes with his whip, and he and some eight onlookers were blown to pieces.

Mr. E. P. Gueritz, the Governor of British North Borneo, arrived at Hongkong on Mar. 15 by the German mail steamer *Prinz Heinrich*. His Excellency, who is travelling for the benefit of his health, is accompanied by Mrs. Gueritz.

March 17th being St. Patrick's Day a Dublin University Dinner took place at the Hongkong Hotel. Members of St. Patrick's Club gave a concert; and dances were held by the R.G.A. Sports Club, and the Junior R.E. N.C.O.'s Quadrille Club.

Messrs. Benjamin, Kelly & Potts are in receipt of telegraphic advices from Shanghai to the effect that the Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf Co., Limited, has declared a dividend of Tls. 6 per share on old shares and Tls. 3 per share on new shares.

Mr. Wm. Martin, American Consul at Nanking, who returned to China from leave on March 2nd by the G.N.S. *Minnesota*, received a telegram from the State Department the same night, ordering him to proceed at once to Hankow to take up the post of American Consul-General there.

The s.s. *Westminster Bridge*, from Barry with coal on March 14, had an accident during the voyage. In the China Sea, her intermediate crank-shaft broke. The engineers were seven and a half days making temporary repairs before the vessel proceeded on her journey to Hongkong.

At the Public Works department on March 13th, Rural Building Lot 120, situated near the Mt. Gough Reservoir was put up for sale. The only bidder was Mr. A. Bryer (of Messrs. Leigh and Orange), and the lot was knocked down to him for \$4,820, being \$20 above the upset price.

The name of the new American consul at Newchwang is given as Sammons. We are sure there is nothing fishy about his appointment. Mr. Miller of Newchwang is transferred to Yokohama. Mr. Davidson, who has been temporarily in charge at Shanghai, is to go to Antung when the war is over.

Li King Shek and his son have been arrested by the Chinese authorities at Canton in connection with the recent failure at Hongkong of the Kwong Yik Wo firm. The shop failed shortly before the China New Year, the partners absconding (it is alleged) with the proceeds of a few thousand bags of flour.

MARRIAGES.

On 4th March, at Yokohama, EVELYN MARY JOHNSON, daughter of THOMAS SUMMERS BAKER, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, to ADAM JOHNSTONE MCCLURE.

On 14th March, at St. John's Cathedral, by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, HERBERT ALEXANDER, seventh son of Mrs. LAMBERT and the late G. R. LAMBERT, of Hongkong, to FLORENCE, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. SHAW (Hongkong Cotton Mills), Hongkong.

At Chefoo, ARTHUR A. S. BARNES, of the Wiltshire and Chinese Regiments, Transvaal Government Agent for Emigration, to MARGUERITE ANTOINETTE WEATHERSTON, of Chinkiang.

DEATHS.

On 20th February, at Peak Hospital, Hongkong, A. T. BREIDENBERG, late of I. M. Customs, Canton, died of heart disease, aged 60 years.

On 7th March, at Shanghai, ARTHUR FREDERICK CAROZZI, aged 17 years.

On 14th March, at Shanghai, HENRI VINAY, aged 62 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail arrived, per the s.s. *Prinz Heinrich*, on Wednesday, the 15th inst.; and the French Mail of the 17th ult., arrived per the s.s. *Tonkin* to-day.

CHINESE CURRENCY REFORM.

(Daily Press, 11th March.)

China-side men with experience and knowledge of things Chinese are quite pessimistic with regard to the prospect of currency reform in China. The fact that Professor JENKS should have been treated with such exceptional honour, during his recent visit to China on an educational mission connected with this matter, gave rise to hopes that the authorities at Peking might yet do something to establish a more stable currency; but in China, if anywhere, the meaning of the adage about "hope deferred" is fully realised. According to a correspondent who writes from Peking, we may almost abandon hope of a gold currency. The memorial by CHANG CHIH-TUNG, to which we have twice referred previously, is believed to have had greater influence at headquarters than we thought it deserved. The emasculated puppets who pull the wires in the Forbidden City, and rule the elderly woman who rules the youthful Emperor who is supposed to be ruling China, have been much impressed by the dotting Viceroy's prophecies of national calamities that were to follow the introduction of a stable currency. There was something childish in CHANG CHIH-TUNG's assertion that foreign assistance at the Chinese mint would mean "nothing more nor less than that the finances of the whole Empire of China shall be entrusted into the hands of the foreigner designated as the Director of the Mint, leaving nothing in the hands of the owners thereof"; but apparently such statements are swallowed at Peking as readily as "the heathen in his blindness" acquiesces in the most ridiculous *tabu*. Of course, the benefit of a gold currency in China would not be fully realised if its circulation were restricted to coast ports and provinces. No such half measure was anticipated by Professor JENKS when he was seeking to show China how she might improve her own financial conditions. CHANG CHIH-TUNG, instead of manfully rising to the occasion, and facing obvious difficulties as he might have done, had he not given rein to prejudices unworthy in a man with such a reputation, instead of suggesting plans for overcoming those difficulties, weakly and meanly says "there is fear that such coins cannot be made to pass current throughout the Empire." Worse still, he magnifies the difficulties, and, to impress the already harassed authorities, pictures shops and firms going into bankruptcy; merchants closing their doors; and rebellion stalking about the land. All these things, he it noted, as a consequence of fixing a stable exchange of currency. His idea of the meaning of a gold currency, if described without quotations to support the description, would hardly be believed. It is worthy of the meanest coolie in the purlieus of Canton, but inexplicable in an educated man of CHANG's experience. He explains that Europeans use gold coins because they are so rich, and the goods they consume so dear. He informs the EMPRESS that in Europe "there was never a case where an individual's daily expenses amounted to less than one silver dollar!" "Hence," he goes on, "it was found more convenient to use gold money. This is not the case with China. Our people are poor; goods are cheap; labour very moderate, while Chinese are economical in their food and their daily expenses. It was therefore necessary to use copper cash as a medium of exchange. Amongst the poor, a person's daily expenses for foods mount only to an average of twenty copper cash. Among those of medium means a man daily spends on his food some sixty or seventy cash

only. It is only in the sea-coast and riverine treaty ports and large cities that silver bullion and silver dollars are inter-used, but in the inland towns and cities trade in local products, be the amounts large or small, the currency is computed in copper cash only. Although in large trade transactions silver bullion may be accepted in payment, the accounts at any rate are always kept on a copper cash basis." It is to be hoped that their Majesties in Peking will be approached by some one able to enlighten the darkness into which their faithful Viceroy has plunged them on this matter; to explain to them how an agricultural labourer in rural England, bringing up a family on fifteen shillings a week, is spending the equivalent of gold; and how the sweated workwoman in London East, buying a pennyworth of bread, a farthing's worth of tea, and a ha' porth of butter, is no worse off under a gold standard than the poor Chinese provincial who buys rice for twenty copper cash; but may be, and doubtless is, better off for it.

NAVAL WARFARE.

(Daily Press, 13th March.)

Not long ago a fiery naval officer of the old school, speaking at a public banquet, gave utterance to sentiments, in good breezy nautical style, which, coming from such a quarter, must have caused unfeigned surprise. He said that in the present day every devilish device which could be conceived was resorted to in naval warfare. This forcible expression does not go very far beyond what the large majority of people have felt with respect to the illustrations which have been afforded of the new methods of warfare. Torpedoes, when they were first heard of, were considered to be somewhat out of the range of fair naval weapons, as having something about them that was underhand and deceptive and contrary to recognised ideas of honourable fighting. The same view has been entertained as to sub-marines, which have always been regarded as something tricky; and it has been a great shock to old fashioned notions that means of so "sneaking" a character should have to be resorted to in place of the old fashioned broadside actions in which courage played a more conspicuous part. When, however, it comes to the use of mines, not merely for defensive purposes, as in guarding the entrance to a harbour, but spread about as traps to destroy battle-ships without giving a moment's warning or any opportunity of defence, the general feeling has certainly become something like that of the outspoken naval officer, though it may not have been as exactly formulated or as uncompromisingly expressed.

There can be no doubt that the use of the improved explosives of modern days is in a certain way repugnant to the moral sense of a large number of people. So far as the Russo-Japanese war is concerned, it must be admitted that these appliances have been pretty equally used on both sides, and it would require a clever casuist to mark the exact line which divides their legitimate from their illegitimate use, if they are to be availed of at all. To hope that such forcible means both of offence and defence should be put aside altogether on grounds of sentiment is of course manifestly Utopian; and it must also be admitted that, however they may shock the moral sense of the large number of persons who are specially opposed to the horrors of war, they will certainly be made use of; and the best hope, in a humanitarian point of view, is that means may be found for making them less formidable than, without such protective methods, they will continue to be. Science, which has discovered

such forcible means of inflicting damage, may, it is reasonable to hope, be equally successful in devising means of resisting or avoiding these appliances. To this point, it is evident, attention is being steadily directed in Naval quarters, and it is to be hoped that the experiments which are being made may result in discoveries that will reduce the means of sudden surprise, which threaten to make naval warfare more and more a matter of blind chance and less dependent upon stout vessels, skill, foresight and bravery. It has rarely happened that a new mode of offence has not, before very long, been followed by the discovery of some equally effective means of defence; and though the problem at present appears a difficult one, it is not too much to hope that some effective modification may be discovered against mines and other explosive attack.

With respect to the former, however, one thing ought to be settled definitely, namely, that the use of unsecured floating mines should be considered as an offence against the Comity of Nations. The most pressing exigencies of war cannot justify a belligerent in strewing the high seas with mines, which, though designed to have effect only within a given area, may drift anywhere, and may cause the most serious damage to perfectly innocent persons. For protection of a given area beyond which mines cannot go, and with respect to which the world at large is properly warned, the use of fixed mines may be a legitimate method either of attack or defence; but this cannot be said as to strewing mines in any way which may even possibly endanger outside shipping, as, if all accounts are to be believed, was done at one stage of the war by Russia. Such a course is to attack the highway of all nations and in a sense to take up arms against them all. Considerations of ordinary policy, if nothing else, would prevent most nations from adopting such a course; but unfortunately such considerations are often of little avail during the heat and passion of actual warfare.

To Great Britain, which is so much dependent upon her navy, the new developments are of vital importance. The bare possibility of naval action being reduced largely to a mere matter of chance must be a very serious consideration to any nation who not only has to look upon her navy as her first line of defence, but to whom the command of the sea may under given circumstances be absolutely essential to maintaining defence at all. Mr. H. W. Wilson calls attention to this point in an article in the *National Review*, which will no doubt be carefully considered by those who are charged with the responsibility of defending the Empire. He says: "If Japan had not been a strong military power, there was nothing to prevent the Vladivostock ships from covering a raid against the northern part of Japan. It would not have been difficult for Russia to collect the necessary transports for a short voyage at Vladivostock; while under similar conditions in our case, our adversaries will have the necessary shipping to hand. It seems clear that, accepting the 'Blue water' view as sound, our existing fleet is not certain of commanding the sea. Either we must add to it, or to our army, so as to enable us to view with composure the possibility of a hostile squadron cruising for days off the Thames as Admiral Jessen's fleet did off Tokyo." These remarks were made merely upon the basis of the statistical strength of the Navy. Their importance, however, is infinitely enhanced in view of the comparatively unreliable character of a navy, however strong, in face of the risks that have absolutely to be accepted in these days

of possible attack by hidden explosives; against which triple iron is no better protection than the old wooden walls.

EPILOGUE OF THE WAR.

(Daily Press 14th March)

KUROPATKIN is beaten. Russia is beaten. In April the war will be over. It is a safer prophecy, that, than any racing "tip" ever was. The Russian general's messages to his Emperor have come down to the level of his Liaoyang despatch, or lower; and this time there are no piqued war correspondents to soften defeat, by praising his strategy, and belittling the work of his conquerors. He has been outflanked and surrounded; and by way of atoning for the absence of Mr. BENNET BURLEIGH and Co., he has explained how by extraordinary measures he has extricated his army from a highly dangerous position. What those extraordinarily heroic steps must have been is made apparent in the Japanese official despatch published in this issue, which we have Englished and put into tabulated form. The original copy (in part) thus refers to the things General KUROPATKIN left behind him in the Shaho détaché:—

"... 2 ensigns, sixty guns, sixty thousand rifles, 150 ammunition wagons, 1,000 army wagons, two hundred thousand shells, twenty-five million shots of rifles, grains of 74,000 bushels, materials of the light railway for 46 miles, 300 wagons of the light railway, 2,000 horses, maps full in 28 Chinese carts, clothings full in over 1,000 Chinese carts, bread of one million portions, fuel of 150 million pounds, horse allowance of 223 thousand bushels and 125 thousand pounds of hay."

Let no one smile at the diction of that catalogue. If some members of the Island Empire have yet to acquire a ripper experience of the intricacies of our speech, we have to remember that recent events prove how well, how very, very well, they can do other things. They can fight, and no European nation can ever again presume to teach them the art or science of the soldier. If this list of trophies be trustworthy, (and it must be remembered that from the beginning there has been no Japanese official return of captures which subsequent discoveries did not prove to have been conservative, rather than exaggerated), it means that an entrenched Russian army, superior in numbers, with ample ammunition and stores, commanded by an officer whose military talents all have agreed to praise, has been put to rout. Twenty six thousand and five hundred Russians dead on the ground, and forty thousand living Russian soldiers taken prisoner. Is it easy to realise what that means; to mentally grasp such appalling figures? It means that the Japanese army, within the last week, has killed or captured the equivalent (short about five thousand) of the entire population of Hongkong. Picture Queen's Road East at its busiest; imagine every individual thronging the street lying stiff and cold; and even then it is insignificant compared with the real scene to be witnessed along the banks of the Sha river. How was it done? It is not much use thinking of the demoralised condition of the Russian rank and file, of their discouragement by news from home, by previous failures, by lack of the care and comforts that their wicked and contemptible "superiors" have robbed them of; it is inconceivable that twenty-six thousand men would stand to be shot down without offering the fiercest resistance. We know, in fact, from reports by the Japanese, who have always given full credit for their enemy's gallantry, that a most fierce and obstinate fight was

made. General KUROPATKIN's tactical skill seems to be admitted: it may perhaps have been that he was not properly backed up by his officers. The last news from Port Arthur prepared us to believe almost anything derogatory to the average Russian officer. There is also the advantage of "momentum" to the Japanese. A moving body impacting a body at rest inflicts more damage than it receives; other things being equal, offence is better than defence. Whatever the causes, ample explanations of which will be forthcoming by-and-by, there is no doubt of the present state of things. It is too serious to be described as "luring 'em on." The Russian eagles are in flight; the prestige and power of the Tsar's army are gone. There seems no longer any hope of that one victory which was to save the Russian "face," and make overtures possible. What will be done now? We do not think it likely that Russia will sue as a fallen foe; nor that her authorities will formally agree to all the Japanese stipulations. History tells of wars that closed without peace treaties. The Russo-Japanese War promises to make another in that list. The war will be over just because there will be no more fighting. The remnants of Russia's great army may linger on their own side of the rubicon, to regain prestige in the way that a small boy, driven from the field, does by shaking his fist at the boy who licked him; and Japan, having done what she set out to do, will stay proceedings. International intervention will do the rest. The boy on the Siberian side of the fence may shake his fist as much as he likes, as it relieves his feelings; but he cannot return. The Powers must and will see to that.

AUSTRALIA'S EXTERNAL TRADE.

(Daily Press, 15th March.)

The rise and progress of the external trade of Australia forms an interesting chapter in the history of the world's commerce. According to the New South Wales Government Statistician, it is larger than that of any British possession, India alone excepted, and, if the transit and re-export trade be excluded, compares very favourably as regards proportion to population with that of any other country. In 1903 the recorded imports were valued at £37,811,471, against £17,562,960 in 1861. The figures were higher during several of the intervening years, the volume of imports naturally being affected by fiscal changes and other causes. The recorded exports have, however, consistently maintained, with few exceptions, an upward tendency, the values rising from £17,399,636 in 1861, to £48,170,164 in 1903, making the total trade in the latter year £85,981,635, as against £34,962,616 in 1861, an increase of £51,019,019, the value per inhabitant in 1903 being £21 18s. 11d. The total trade during the last three years, £262,702,635, was exceeded during the same period only by Great Britain, £808,815,270; Germany £530,931,000, America, £503,739,690; and France, £352,390,440, all the other countries of the world being each below the Australian figures, Belgium, with £172,232,000, occupying the highest place, and Greece, with £8,601,170, the lowest. "One-third of all goods now imported into Australia," says Mr. COGHLAN, "may be said to be of non-British origin, as compared with about one-fourth ten years ago. The chief factor in bringing about the change is undoubtedly the establishment of direct and rapid communication between Germany, France, Belgium, Japan, the United States, and the Commonwealth.

Twenty years ago it was difficult, if not impossible, to obtain goods direct from the continent of Europe or the eastern seaboard of the United States; now there is fortnightly communication with Hamburg and Bremerhaven by a line subsidised by the German Imperial Government, and with Marseilles, Havre, and Dunkirk by the Messageries Maritimes—a line heavily subsidised by the French Republic." The exports display features similar to those revealed by the imports, especially the increase of exports to foreign countries. All this, however, does not prove that the Commonwealth consumes fewer commodities of British origin; it simply shows that Continental and American trade is now conducted direct with the Commonwealth, instead of through British ports, as formerly. Every year steamers of greater tonnage and higher speed are visiting Australian ports, and, says Mr. COGHLAN, "a considerable expansion of commerce must of necessity take place, owing to the new outlets for trade which have been opened up." The principal articles imported from the United Kingdom cover an extensive field, the leading values in 1903 being: Piece-goods, £4,377,361; apparel and attire, £1,517,637; iron and steel, £1,297,928; machines and machinery, £1,141,591; and manufactures of metal, £1,199,372. The leading imports from British possessions are considerable; those from New Zealand comprise gold, native pine, oats, butter, cheese, hides, and flax. Imports from India include bags and sacks, tea, canvas, and castor oil; from Ceylon, tea; from Canada, flour, agricultural implements, and timber; from Hongkong, sugar and opium; from Mauritius, sugar; from Ocean Island, guano; from Fiji, copra; from New Guinea, gold, and from the Straits Settlements, pepper and other spices, tapioca, and kerosene oil. In imports from foreign countries, the United States led the way in 1903 with £6,368,532; Germany following with £2,358,553; Netherlands and Java, £847,387; France and New Caledonia, £506,667; Belgium, £341,271; Japan £330,121; Sweden and Norway, £244,172; Italy, £153,787; and the South Sea Islands, £75,571; the imports from other countries totalling £1,432,882. The principal imports were as follows:—United States, boots and shoes, food produce, agricultural implements, machinery, metal manufactures, leather, printing paper, kerosene oil, tobacco, tools of trade, vehicles, and timber; Germany, wearing apparel, dynamite, candles, fancy goods, pianos, machinery, piece-goods, metal manufactures, and manures; France, cream of tartar, piece-goods, spirits, and wine; and Sweden and Norway, timber. Of the Australian exports to countries not under the British flag fully 85 per cent. were taken by France, Germany, the United States, and Belgium, a fact which tends to explain the increasing volume of imports from those places.

THE POWERS AND CHINA.

(Daily Press, 16th March.)

One good effect may be looked for from recent events in these parts, namely, that of defining more accurately the policy of Foreign Nations, and more especially of Great Britain, with respect to China and the Far East. British policy has been very freely criticised for many years past, but it must be confessed that such criticism has been in the main directed against what was in itself not very definite or very distinctly declared. In general terms British policy has been stated to be the preservation of her Treaty rights and

the furtherance of her commercial interests in China. This has been the position always taken up officially when it has been necessary to make any formal announcement on the subject, and this declaration of policy may be fairly taken as being the only thing that has been consistently adhered to amidst much that was anything but consistent. The principle is simple enough; but its application has proved by no means so easy; and it is not surprising that in the view of many it was considered that the end in view could not be attained in any other way than by accepting responsibilities in China, which the Home Government was very little inclined to assume. The obstinate resistance which was made by the Chinese to anything in the direction of progress naturally suggested the idea that the only way to further foreign intercourse and commerce would be by the acquisition of territory and the assumption of the powers of Government; and at one time such a policy would not have been seriously opposed by the majority of the other foreign nations; who knew that they would share in any advantages to be obtained. Such a policy, however, never recommended itself to the British Government or public, and was always opposed to the views of the United States, who favoured the idea that improvements in China might be obtained by other and simpler means. China was and undoubtedly still is by no means a desirable country to take in hand, and a guarded policy with respect to the assumption of responsibility in any direction became recognised as that which was at all events the safest. It has, however, always been apparent that some consolidation of and improvement in the Government of China was essential; though the hope was clung to that China, like Italy, would reform of herself.

The question now is: how far after the lapse of more than forty years, since the Treaty of Tientsin, China has verified this hope. Some progress has undoubtedly been made, but it has been of a slow and undecided character. New ports have been opened and railways have been introduced; but still China in the main has not advanced essentially from her old world ways. The Government remains as weak and at the same time as arbitrary as ever, a strange mixture of autocracy and feebleness, and the hope of any internal reform of a substantial character has been almost abandoned by its best wishers. At the same time it cannot be denied that China has at least shown herself capable of development. There is a large and now increasing class in China who are well aware of the advantages which she could derive from the adoption of foreign ways. The middle trading class who have intercourse with Europeans and whose numbers are yearly augmenting, are quite aware that foreign appliances, and even foreign learning, are not to be regarded as mere curiosities of barbarism; and this class would be glad if China, while still preserving the bulk of her old traditions, could in some way follow the example of Japan, and come more directly into line with European nations.

With these changes, the idea that this end could be brought about only if China were taken in hand by some European nation, which was at one time popular, has gradually been modified; and with the proof of what such responsibility may involve, that has been afforded by the Russo-Japanese War, this remedy is likely to be still less considered as one within the domain of practical politics; and so far as Great Britain or the United States—who are in the main at one on this subject—are concerned, we may

take it that such an idea is not likely to be revived, unless some other nation should attempt to or succeed in acquiring domination, which is not, as events have turned out, by any means so likely a contingency as it was formerly. Russia, we may hope, will be checked in her designs in this direction after the conclusion of the war; and there is no other nation which is likely to be anxious to push an aggressive policy in these parts. It has been shown that it is one thing to assume such a position, but a very different thing to maintain it, and so far the policy of upholding the integrity of China which has been pursued has proved in the long run to have been the right one; and if the factor of Russian aggression in the North be eliminated from the contingencies that have to be guarded against, there can be little question as to the wisdom of continuing the policy which has hitherto been followed, and which, though it might be open to question in former times, has so far proved to be the only sound and reasonable course that could be adopted. If once the fear of Russian aggression in China can be removed, a way will be opened to maintain a sound commercial policy in which the interests of foreign nations can be furthered in a manner which was necessarily impossible while China constantly laboured under the fear of aggression in some quarter or another and the partition of the country was discussed as an open question. The influence of Japan will be a strong factor in all future policy. If that country were averse to foreign civilization her influence might be of a dangerous character; but, so long as she ranges herself on the side of legitimate commercial progress, which has certainly been her policy hitherto, and which policy it is alike her interest and her inclination to follow, her co-operation with foreign nations in furthering legitimate intercourse and the extension of commercial facilities will be a valuable aid in the cause of progress; while her policy must always lie in the direction of safe-guarding the integrity of China, as Japan is well aware that encroachment on the part of any one nation would be the signal for similar action on the part of others and would be productive of confusion, the end of which it would be difficult to foretell.

KIAOCHAU.

(Daily Press, 17th March.)

Kiaochau may be regarded as the German Hongkong, albeit it is as yet only the Hongkong of years ago. The same remarkable commercial and urban development is apparent, however; a recent "White Book" showing how satisfactory has been the progress made, both economic and general. The opening of the large harbour, for which two jetties were put into use last year, and its railway connection with Tsinanfu, the capital of Shantung, encouraged the already promising increase of shipping. Adequate godown accommodation on the wharves is being provided; and there are expectations that the large floating dock will be ready for use immediately. The two-hundred-and-sixty-five miles of trunk railway, by the way, was finished well within the time stipulated, an excellent example that should stir emulation elsewhere. A branch line in the Po-shan Valley, twenty-seven miles long, has also been opened. The immediate result of all these facilities has been an increase in the Colonial receipts for 1904, £25,097, or £9,845 more than in 1903. The number of vessels entering Kiaochau was increased from 273 in 1903 to 337 last year, the total tonnage being 388,323 as

compared with the previous 286,260 tons. The increased trade is also apparent in the reported receipts of the Chinese Maritime Customs at Tsingtau, which were \$618,000 last year, and in 1903 only \$441,000. There was a corresponding increase in the value of goods in transit. It must not be forgotten, when estimating the commercial progress of our northern competitor, that without the Russo-Japanese war, these returns would have been greater. The trade and shipping with Japan was suspended when the war began, and though it is again resuming, the official report under review was published before the further increment could be taken into account. On the landward side of the German Protectorate business is shown to have flourished, the weekly number of passengers conveyed to and from by the Shantung Railway being from four to five thousand more than was the case in the previous twelve months. The goods traffic on this line exhibited a still more remarkable increase. Figures given relate to the first nine months of each year, and an increased volume of over two hundred per cent. is shown. Eighty-eight thousand tons were carried in the 1904 period, against twenty-seven thousand in the first three quarters of 1903. The Shantung export consignments of silk, plated straw, crockery, etc., were practically all diverted from road to rail. In a short time, no doubt, the goods traffic will be increased by the addition of much agricultural produce, the natives thus being able to find speedy market for the perishable commodities they raise in large quantities. The German port appears to have become increasingly popular as a tourist and health resort. Five hundred foreign visitors were registered at the big new hotel during the year; and the natives are said to have contemplated this invasion with equanimity, if not with unmixed satisfaction. The native officials were glad to send Chinese constables to study the German police system. Socially, Tsingtau is also a go-ahead place, numbering over a thousand population, and boasting two German newspapers and two Chinese. Excellent bathing facilities are there to tempt holiday-makers from Shanghai and neighbouring places. H.E. Governor TRUPPEL has cause to be proud of his charge.

TRADE PROSPECTS IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 18th March.)

The *Journal of the Society of Arts* for February 10th contains the full text of Mr. BYRON BRENNAN's paper on "British Commercial Prospects in China," with ample reports of the ensuing discussion. As we surmised, Mr. BRENNAN's utterances had suffered somewhat by condensation in the Home newspapers. Not that anything he said was misreported, but parts of the context of more importance than the extracts quoted were omitted, and in some cases, the impossibility of relating statements that should have been brought together made it impossible to give Mr. BRENNAN full credit for what now appears as an excellent and eminently valuable paper. The comments of some of the Home journals, to which we have already referred, were directed to preliminary passages, and ignored many references that were of much greater importance. With regard to his reference to the uselessness (in the sense that no use is made of them) of newly opened ports like Nanning, to which no foreign merchant has paid attention since it was declared open six years ago, there were numerous philippics against the

inaction of the British Government. These were given as if prompted by the lecturer, whereas Mr. BRENNAN was careful to say "As a nation we are chiefly interested in the volume of trade; the prosperity of the British merchant established in China is a matter more of individual than of national concern." On the whole, Mr. BRENNAN makes it clear that the snailish progress of commerce with China is owing entirely to the rotten, corrupt, and incredibly shortsighted native Government, which "does not give a thought to such matters as the expansion of commerce, or the development of the resources of the country." When it does think, its thoughts are usually confined to the most obvious and immediate gain, as when CHANG CHIH-TUNG killed Chinese manufacturing enterprise, "because if China could manufacture any foreign article for herself she would cease to import it, and then China would lose the import duty!" So Chinese official action is usually that which "blindly adopts measures which end in strangling trade and killing enterprise." Mr. BRENNAN says that the progress already made has been in spite of, not because of, Chinese official action. Of the everlasting railway question, he had much to say that was instructive. In his manner of presenting the financial aspect of the typical railway concession, Mr. BRENNAN seems to afford more explanation than usual of the delays to which we have grown so accustomed. He paints these investments in a way that robs them of their gilt-edged character. "All that the syndicate gets out of the business is such profit as it can make in floating the loan, a commission on the purchase of materials, and a share amounting to one-fifth of the net earnings of the line after the interest on the loan has been paid." The only way in which the British capitalist is at a disadvantage is that his Government has not the same regard for the political importance of a railway that other foreign Governments have. Being committed to the policy of conserving China's integrity, the British Government is unwilling to make vague promises like the others, of seeing that the bondholder "comes out all right in the end;" and those who bewail this omission may someday modify their opinion, if ever the time comes for the other Governments to show what their political undertakings are worth. The Chinaman is sly enough to see the dilemma, and has begun to point out that "it is unjust for foreigners to press them to borrow money for the construction of railways which the foreigners themselves do not feel confident will earn five per cent. If the importunate foreigner is sure the line will pay five per cent., they say, why insist upon a Government guarantee? And if he is not sure about it, why put pressure on China to authorise the construction?" The only answer to these awkward questions that Mr. BRENNAN could think of was that we must do as others are doing. He also indicates very plainly that the Chinese who have the power do not want railways, and do not know what good they are. With them, "a desire for the welfare of their country is felt only in an abstract sort of way as a good theme for an examination essay, but it does not form part with them of what is called practical politics." It seems almost a pity, with a rich country in the hands of such an incompetent Government, that our Government should concern itself so much about the integrity of China, and that it does not overtly join in with the real policy of the powers, and make its one-time "spheres of influence" mean something more than a mere phrase.

Mr. BRENNAN did not suggest this, however. He defined "what should be our chief aim" as "the amelioration of the condition of the Chinese people," but he had more prudence than to suggest that that were best accomplished under foreign rule, for such parts of it, at least, as might fall to truly civilised Powers. Yet Hongkong, Shanghai, and Tsingtau might be pointed out as rather pleasant examples of amelioration. He confessed later on to a hankering for some unforeseen event that would "place the foreign Powers who wish China well in a position to compel reform." Those who have hoped against hope for real reforms from Peking would not mind seeing, perhaps, a coalition of England, America, and Japan to compel such a position to come about.

KOWLOON CANTON RAILWAY.

(Daily Press 20th March.)

Writing confidentially, a correspondent reminds us that there used to be some talk of a Kowloon-Canton railway, and makes the excellent suggestion that it is time the Hongkong public should be informed what, if anything, is being done. So far as we can see, the British and Chinese Corporation seems to have shared the fate of SIGDEIFA in the Norse saga—that of being scratched with the sleep-thorn. The best excuse we can offer for again referring to this thrice hackneyed theme is that as constant dropping wears away the stone, so constant reminders may stir up the apparently unconscious persons who have our commercial future in the hollow of their hand. To those who realise the importance of this matter, the subject can never appear tedious. Its importance was one of the first official admissions made by His Excellency the GOVERNOR; and in common with the business community of Hongkong, whose interests we have the best of reasons for espousing, we have, in season and out of season, repeatedly urged the need of action, and the dangers of delay. Various explanations of a most extraordinary delay have been forthcoming, but the time seems now to have come when none of these can reasonably be put forward again. One thing that makes the occasion appear especially opportune is the very apparent keenness of the British Public to invest its capital in China. Our London correspondent's telegraphic account of the avidity with which the investing public rushed to subscribe to the recent Chinese Government loan is amply confirmed by the last mail papers from Home. So long as the investors at Home were attracted by South Africa as a lucrative field for the employment of British capital, the holders of the concession for the railway between Kowloon and Canton could plausibly plead the difficulty of negotiating a loan for the necessary funds. Such an excuse is to-day absurd, in face of the news with which everybody here is now familiar. The bonds of the Shanghai-Nanking railway are reported to be at a handsome premium, and the Kowloon-Canton railway is a much more attractive proposal. We may therefore without impropriety remind the Colonial Government, the local Chamber of Commerce, and the Hongkong branch of the China Association, that the present is a psychological moment when action taken by them would be likely to be most effective. The public is anxious to know what the concessionaries are doing; if nothing, why? if they intend to do anything, and if there is any alternative to the present very unsatisfactory state of things. Our cor-

respondent, first referred to, holds the opinion that a sufficiently forceful representation, by His Excellency the GOVERNOR to the Home Government, of the pressing necessities of the business, would have a drastic effect. No doubt it would. Pressure of no light nature might be brought to bear upon the financial magnates who are gambling so easily with the destinies of this important colony. The weight of the influence of the Chamber of Commerce, added to such a representation, would also have great value just now; while if the China Association, through their London committee, were to co-operate with an urgent and timely appeal, the probability is that this pregnant scheme would immediately cease to be a byword and a cause of semi-humorous despair. It would certainly be worth trying, and the longer that such united efforts are put off, the greater and more formidable will the difficulties become. Already the Chinese prejudice against foreign capital in such connections is growing more pronounced, for reasons that are obvious. We may yet have to suffer for the sins of our neighbours, for the lesson of the Peking-Newchwang railway is as nothing to the warnings afforded by some of the other accomplished enterprises. The Chinese at Canton know that no political intrigue or ulterior design underlies the scheme under discussion; but Peking is easily come at, easily influenced, and there are those who view the rise and progress of Hongkong with no great favour. Thus, while our intentions toward China are of the most honourable nature, there is always a danger that the lapse of time, which is bringing embittering experiences to the authorities at Peking, might conceivably dispose them to mistrust even their best friends, and to increase the difficulties from which such enterprises have never been altogether free. The Cantonese would gain more than we by the opening of this line. The only thing that stands in the way appears to be the mysterious hope of the concessionaries for some uniquely favourable opening to introduce their business. The public has in the past been most reasonable and patient; but they cannot afford to watch the present golden opportunity being allowed to pass without any apparent effort to seize it. If the corporation is awake, we have a right to be shown some signs of life. If they are, as is feared, somewhat comatose, we would like to see restoratives administered in some such way as we have now suggested.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

14th March.

The weather has apparently changed at last. During the month of February, I see from the meteorological observations published by the Observatory, we had a total of only 26 hours of sunshine. And we live "in the tropics"! In February last year we had 207 hours of sunshine, and a mean temperature 62.6 deg. Fahrenheit. The mean temperature for the month of February this year was 55.3 degrees. In February last the temperature did not once fall below 50 degrees, but on the 10th of Feb. this year the thermometer registered 41.8 degrees, and for more than a third of the month the mercury was below 50 degrees. The general impression is therefore correct: we have had an unusually cold spell since Chinese New Year.

Our climatic conditions, in fact, seem to be changing in more respects than one. Dr. Clark, our Medical Officer of Health, has noted that during the last three decades there has been a progressive reduction in our rainfall. This emphasises the importance of increasing the water storage accommodation, a work with which I am glad to note the P.W.D. has been

making good progress during the last two years.

In the little farewell speech delivered by Dr. Atkinson at last week's meeting of the Sanitary Board I noticed a rather astonishing statement. Dr. Atkinson spoke of the measures taken by the Government to stop the ravages of malaria by training the nullahs, removing undergrowth and filling in the swamps, and he quoted hospital returns to the effect that the number of malarial patients admitted into the hospitals last year was only a third the number admitted in 1901. Yet I notice that of the 490 cases last year no fewer than 301 were fatal, whereas in 1901, out of 1,393 cases only 574 were fatal. The mortality shows therefore a big percentage of increase. What is the explanation? Do the hospital returns really prove that malaria is less prevalent now than it was four years ago? Or does this large increase in the percentage of deaths to cases merely indicate that malarial patients do not resort to the hospitals until they are in an extremely bad state? Whatever may be the explanation, we shall derive great satisfaction from these mortality returns if we look at them in their proper light. They show, in fact, that per 1,000 of the population (even supposing the population had remained stationary during the last four years) the reduction in the mortality return is something like 90 per cent.

Apropos of this subject I should like to direct the attention of the P.W.D. to the offensive odour which is frequently noticeable in Glenealy, just at the spot where the gradient is steepest. The smell suggests stagnant water in a culvert, —just the very place for mosquitoes to breed. There are two similar places in Conduit Road where water collects and stagnates underneath the two bridges. Now that the P.W.D. is apparently clearing away the stone heap which has disfigured this road they might see if something cannot be done to abate these nuisances.

I hear there is something like a little strike among the Hospital Sisters of the Colony. I am informed that Government requires that they shall give lessons in nursing gratuitously to the European ladies of the colony who are attending the nursing classes started a little while ago, and the Hospital Sisters regard the request as unreasonable. What, I wonder, would the Colonial Treasurer say to a suggestion that he should devote his leisure moments to giving the community lessons in book-keeping?

There is a story in circulation that induces me to express the opinion that if a little exhortation to be careful in record-keeping were addressed exclusively to members of the Civil Service it might serve a useful purpose. The story relates to a little confusion which has occurred in the cemetery records. "Here lieth" is the customary beginning of epitaphs on grave stones. It sometimes happens that it is the stone that lieth. There is — But, after all, what does it matter if a man lies here and a stone lies there?

Lord Hawke, whose presence on the cricket ground last Saturday attracted an unusually large field, had that ill-luck which seems to dog the steps of celebrated cricketers who have won famous victories and from whom ever afterwards great things are expected at the wicket. Dismissed for 2 is not as bad as being dismissed with a duck egg—but very nearly. Lord Hawke will know now where to look when he wants another team to go to the Antipodes.

There has been much discussion during the last few days as to what that coxswain meant when, according to his evidence in the police court, he said to the plaintiff, a lieutenant in the R.G.A.: "you no belong Englishee; you blong Scotchee." According to the plaintiff's evidence there were more adjectives employed in the accusation, but assuming that to be the fact, the problem discussed is why the coxswain should have regarded the brogueless lieutenant as being adjectively Scotch rather than adjectively English, Irish or Welsh. The only thing clear in the evidence is that the accusation was deeply resented, and in view of the conflicting nature of the testimony on the point I must leave it to

the Lieutenant to say why he resented the accusation. Many pukka Scotsmen would like to know. [Note by the Editor: It was, of course, not that particular saying that the gentleman resented, but the Chinaman's general insolence of conduct and demeanour. Lieut. Dobbins has the sympathy of many white men, Scots and others.]

BANYAN.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At a monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce held in the Chamber Room, St. George's Buildings, Hongkong on Tuesday 7th March, 1905 at 4 p.m. Present: Messrs. E. A. Hewett (Chairman), A. G. Wood (Vice-Chairman), Hon. W. J. Gresson, A. Haupt, N. A. Siebs, J. R. M. Smith, E. S. Whealler, and A. R. Lowe (Secretary):—

LIGHTING OF THE WANG MUN ENTRANCE TO THE WEST RIVER.

The following correspondence was read:—
Colonial Secretary's Office,
14th February, 1905.

SIR,—I am directed to inform you that the lighting of the Wang Mun entrance to the West River has recently been under the consideration of the Government.

I transmit a copy of a report by the Harbour Master and am to ask you whether your Committee concur in the views therein expressed.—I have, etc.,

(Sd.) S. B. C. ROSS, for Col. Sec.

To Secretary,

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Report by the Harbour Master.

In January of this year there were 87 arrivals and 86 departures from and to the West River from here, made by 11 steamers of which 8 were British.

I am by no means clear however that Lintin Island is the most suitable place for a light. It is at the immediate entrance of the river, viz: on the Swashway before coming to Wang Mun that all the trouble occurs. A light (white occulting for choice) on its Southern extremity would meet a real want and could be constructed in a similar manner as the Maplin lighthouse 3rd February, 1905.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,

16th February, 1905.

Messrs. Butterfield & Swire, Present.

DEAR SIRS,—I enclose for your information copy of letter received from the Government relating to the lighting of the Wang Mun entrance to the West River. The Committee would be glad if you would report to them at an early date the views of the masters of your steamers regularly running past Wang Mun regarding this matter.—I am, etc.,

(Sd.) A. R. LOWE, Secretary

A similar letter was sent to the Hongkong Canton and Macau Steamboat Coy.

Hongkong 20th February, 1905.

DEAR SIR,—We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 16th instant enclosing copies of letters received from the Government and asking for the opinions of our captains trading on the West River as to the best place to select for such light.

In reply the following recommendation is submitted for the favourable consideration of the Government.

"The best position for a light at the Wang Mun entrance to the West River would be on the West side of the Swashway, bearing NE by E (Mag.) from the East end of Crag Island, distant $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile. A red sector, showing over the shoal water which extends to the S. W. of the Swashway, would be of great service. The light should have a range of 10 miles"—We are, etc.,

(Sd.) BUTTERFIELD AND SWIRE.

To A. R. Lowe, Esq.,

Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

H. C. and Macau Steamboat Co.,

23rd February, 1905.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 16th inst. in regard to the lighting of the Wang Mun

entrance to the West River there are no steamers actually under the management of this Company regularly running past Wang Mun. The vessels which use that route in which we are interested are managed by Messrs. Butterfield and Swire to whom I would refer you for the opinions of the Captains.—Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) T. ARNOLD,
Secretary.

A. R. Lowe, Esq., Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

27th February, 1905.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th instant enclosing a report from the Harbour Master regarding the best position for a light at the Wang Mun entrance to the West River.

The matter has been submitted to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire the managers of the associated Companies owing the s.s. "Lintin," "Sanui," "Hongkong" and "Takling" the largest of the eight steamers regularly running past Wang Mun. Their reply is "the best position for a light at the Wang Mun entrance to the West River would be on the West side of the Swashway, bearing N. E. by E. (Mag.) from the East end of Crag Island, distant $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. A red sector, showing over the shoal water which extends to the S. S. of the Swashway, would be of great service. The light should have a range of 10 miles."

The Committee understand that this suggestion for a light in this position has been made from time to time to the Imperial Maritime Customs by the Captains of the steamers trading on this route and is also shared by Captain Dixon the superintendent of the associated companies' steamers who has also acted as the admiralty pilot on the deeper draft British Naval vessels which have entered the West River.

Under these circumstances it is considered that a light on the Swashway would be far more preferable to one on Lintin Island which is too far away from the Wang Mun entrance to the West River and my Committee trust that His Excellency the Governor can see his way to uphold this view.

I am also to express the thanks of the Committee of this Chamber for the courtesy of the Government in given them an opportunity of expressing their views regarding the best position for this much needed light.

I have etc.,

(Sd.) A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.

To Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.,

Colonial Secretary.

NEW PILOT ORDINANCE.

The correspondence with the Government regarding the working of the new Pilots Ordinance was laid on the table.

FISCAL QUESTION.

The proceedings at the recent General Meeting regarding the resolution for transmission to the Government which was carried by the Members having been discussed it was decided to forward a copy of the proceedings with a covering letter explaining the Committee's views on the matter in detail.

CHANGES ON THE COMMITTEE.

Mr. H. E. Tomkins having resigned on the 4th instant owing to his leaving this Colony for a holiday it was decided to invite Mr. F. Salinger to accept the vacant seat on the Committee and to convey the thanks of the Committee to Mr. Tomkins for his services during the past 4 years.

The Chairman said he was sorry to say that this meeting would be the last at which he could attend as he was leaving for home on a short holiday on the 11th instant, and he had to thank the Members of the Committee for the support given him during his Chairmanship. The Vice-Chairman having expressed the Committee's good wishes for a pleasant holiday it was decided that leave of absence should be granted to Mr. Hewett in lieu of resignation.

NEW PILOT ORDINANCE.

The following letters were referred to in the Chairman's speech at the Annual Meeting were read:—

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
17th February, 1905.

SIR,—I beg to inform you that the question of the New Pilot Ordinance (No. 3 of 1904) has

Recently been again considered by the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, and I have been instructed to lay before you the following facts in connection with the working of this Ordinance.

I would beg to remind you that the reason the Committee of the Chamber originally requested the Government to license pilots in Hongkong, was with a view to checking the growing evil of incompetent and ignorant native boatmen, boarding vessels outside the harbour and representing themselves as competent to act as pilots.

It is hardly necessary to point out that this state of affairs not only caused at times considerable inconvenience and loss to ship owners but the risk of damage to valuable property and heavy loss of life also influenced the Committee in approaching the Government with a view to having these incompetents weeded out.

There were however a number—probably some 40 at least—of Chinese boatmen who for years acted as pilots, bringing in and taking out of the harbour the largest vessels visiting this port, berthing them alongside the wharves or docks, and generally performing the duties of pilots to the entire satisfaction of the shipping community.

It is admitted that most—if not all—of these men are illiterates, but they have proved themselves competent and trustworthy and though recommending legislation, the Committee had in mind that the examination of this class of men, who could not possibly be expected to pass highly technical examinations, would be conducted with similar consideration to that now shown in their examination to coxswains and engineers of local tugs and launches.

The Committee of the Chamber from the first expressly stated that they considered it advisable not to limit the number of pilots and in the belief that this would be the view taken by the Government, the Committee contented themselves with a statement to this effect in their letter addressed to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary dated 21st April 1904. At the same time they also expressed the opinion that the fees for pilotage should not be increased.

I would beg to remind you that the views of the Committee were very fully set out in the correspondence which passed between the Chamber and the Government in 1902, 1903; this has been published in the Chamber's Reports for those years.

Quite the contrary however of what was desired has now come about as, acting under powers given him in the Ordinance, it has been decided by the Harbour Master to limit the number of licences to 10, to cope with the work which forty or fifty men were previously engaged in and even supposing that all the ten men were available at the same time this number is in the opinion of the Committee inadequate to meet the requirements of the shipping.

As a matter of fact it would appear that there are only nine licensed pilots at the moment viz. eight Europeans and one Chinese. Further one of these is engaged in controlling the new formed Pilots' Association and has other interests demanding his attention. Allowance must be made for a certain percentage of absentees either through sickness or temporary absence from their work.

As a result of the number of licences being so limited complaints are being made that the service does not meet the needs of those engaged in it and demands have already been put forward for higher pay than that laid down in the Pilot Regulations, whilst on the other hand Shipping Companies are deprived of the services of men whom they have employed for a number of years, in whom they have thorough confidence and whom they wish to retain.

It is further understood that in one or two cases at least old Chinese pilots who have passed the examination have not been granted licences, the vacancies being filled by Europeans subsequently examined.

If the navigation of the waters of the Colony were of so intricate a nature as to necessitate the engagement of highly qualified pilots, such as are required in the Thames, or the Hooghly, the committee would be only too ready to favour a scheme providing such a service; this however is not the case.

While, therefore, pilotage in the harbour of Hongkong is not so absolutely essential, the custom has gradually grown up to send pilots off to vessels who can give the Commanders the latest information as to the Harbour Regulations, position of vessels in port, and more particularly the course of the current when taking a vessel to a wharf or dock. Many shipping Companies only supply pilots for the latter work.

In view of the above-stated facts the Committee of the Chamber trusts that the question as to how best to work the Pilots' Ordinance in the interests of the shipping trade of this port, will receive the attention of His Excellency the Governor and that, by a liberal extension of the number of licences and further latitude in the matter of examination, the shipping Companies will be able to again make use of those with whom they are entirely satisfied, and a very deserving class of men will therefore be no longer deprived of employment in work for which in a majority of cases they have proved themselves fitted.

It seems to the Committee a distinct hardship to both sides that when the shipping companies are satisfied with their native pilots and these in turn are anxious to resume working for them they should be deprived of each others services.—I have etc.,

(Sd.) A. R. LOWE
Secretary.

To Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
21st February, 1905.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant in connection with the recently enacted Pilots Ordinance and to inform you that His Excellency the Governor shares the views of your committee as set forth in your letter.

Instructions are being given to the Harbour Master to simplify the examination and to license any British subject, unless for some special reason unsuitable, who passes it.—I have etc.,

(Sd.) F. H. MAY,
Colonial Secretary.

To A. R. Lowe, Esq.,
Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 16th March, 1905.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st ultimo intimating His Excellency the Governor's instructions that the Pilots' examinations will be simplified and the limit on licences removed.

In reply I am directed to express to you the thanks of my Committee for the ready manner in which the Government have met the wishes of the shipping community made through the Chamber.

With reference to the statement in my letter to you of the 17th ultimo that "it was understood that in one or two cases at least Chinese pilots who have passed the examination have not been granted licences, the vacancies being filled by Europeans subsequently examined," I am now given to understand that this was incorrect, although the source from which this information was obtained was thought at the time to be reliable. I am therefore to express the regret of the Committee of this Chamber that such a misstatement of fact should have been made thereby indirectly drawing public attention to supposed irregularities in the Harbour Master's Department.—I have, etc.,

(Sd.) A. R. LOWE,
Secretary.

To Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

The Bailiff of the Supreme Court recently had the steam launch *Competition* seized under a warrant. The action being settled, the launch was released, and to evade further proceedings cleared off to Canton. She has been now detained at Canton by the Harbour Master, as she is claimed by Mr. E. Murray of Duddell Street. Capt. Casey has left here for Canton with a crew to bring the launch back, the old crew having run away.

SUPREME COURT.

Saturday, 11th March.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SHERCOMBE
SMITH (JUDGE).

THE HEP LOONG V. WEISMANN, LD.

The hearing of this claim for \$648, for biscuits supplied, was continued. Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Mr. G. K. H. Brutton's office) appeared for the plaintiff shop, and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (instructed by Mr. Almada e Castro) for the defendant company.

Evidence for the plaintiffs having been concluded, Mr. Pollock said:—I would submit that the plaintiffs must be bound by the actual contract produced, which bears the chop of the firm. We have it that Lum Lai fixed the chop of the firm on that contract, and that before he did so the document was explained to him by an interpreter. The biscuits were to be according to sample; they were being sold according to sample.

His Honour—Did not Weismann waive the contract by his conduct? The evidence shows me that Weismann went and superintended the whole thing, and made a selection of the biscuits. The questions are:—did the defendant waive the contract by making this selection and did he waive the contract by accepting the goods, thus leaving himself only able to take an action for damages.

Mr. Pollock—There was no expressed waiver. It would be very dangerous to uphold that he waived the contract. Mr. Weismann, in consequence of the previous biscuits being not according to sample, did his best to ensure that only good biscuits were packed, without relieving the plaintiffs of the very express condition of making the goods according to sample. Because he takes some steps to try and prevent old biscuits being palmed off on him, does that relieve the plaintiff of the expressed condition in the contract?

His Honour—This man made a selection of biscuits, and I must therefore consider that they were up to sample, or what was the good of taking them?

Mr. Pollock—Under the first contract, only one hundred tins were delivered. Weismann inspected the biscuits under the first contract and said they were not good. The plaintiffs took back the biscuits; they gave in at once—and a Chinaman would not give in if he did not think he had a bad case. As regards the second contract, I shall be able to show clearly that the document produced by the plaintiffs is not a copy of the contract, and that Mr. Weismann did put in a copy of the contract which he wrote in the defendants' shop. Mr. Weismann did try, as regards the second contract, to get the price down to 5½ cents, but the defendants would not come down to that. Six cents per lb was agreed on and the chop of the shop was put on a document to that effect by Lum Lai. "Hep Loong" was written in English over the chop by the interpreter. Mr. Weismann will say that that man told him that he was the master or a partner in the defendant shop. It must be assumed that it would be unusual to find a Chinaman writing on such a document if he was not authorised. It is somewhat peculiar that this man, if he was not interested in the plaintiff's shop, should on three or four occasions act as interpreter. On the point of the alleged selection, it is quite true that Mr. Weismann or his European assistant were present practically the whole day while these tins were being packed. But what we say is this:—Mr. Weismann "once bitten, was twice shy"; these biscuits were being sold by him to Messrs. Blackhead and Company to be sent to Singapore, and he thought it was his duty to exercise some sort of precaution. Five or six persons were engaged in the packing business. Although Weismann and his assistant did reject some biscuits, that does not mean to say that they accepted the rest. They were doing their best to exercise some supervision, but this action would not preclude them from refusing the biscuits afterwards on account of them not being according to contract. I would submit that anything done by Mr. Weismann or his assistant

could hardly amount to a waiver of the condition in the contract that these goods should be according to sample. And there was plenty of time for the plaintiffs to unsolder the tins and put in other biscuits. Forty-five tins were sent down on the 31st December, but the other tins were not sent down till afterwards.

His Honour—You never asked the witnesses any questions about that. You do not expect me to charge this man with fraud.

Mr. Pollock—I am only pointing out that there is a possibility of the biscuits having been changed before delivery, and that possibility should make Your Lordship somewhat chary in finding that what was done by Mr. Weismann was absolute acceptance of the biscuits. The fact that the plaintiffs had bad biscuits on their premises is proved by the fact that the defendant rejected a hundred tins on the Praya, and the plaintiffs acquiesced at once. Some time on the 3rd or 4th January Mr. Pick, Mr. Weismann's European assistant, while attending to these biscuits being packed, happened to look up a lane at the back of the plaintiffs' shop. He saw some biscuit tins being lowered down with a rope into the lane. Thinking that this was a very extraordinary thing, and that perhaps something was not right, he went up stairs, where he found a lot of tins and biscuits. He at once took a ricksha to Mr. Weismann who came and saw these old biscuits, and, fearing they would be palmed off on him, made a row. Mr. Weismann at once communicated with Messrs. Blackhead and Company, and as a result, the biscuits were inspected on arriving at Singapore. They were refused by the parties there; Messrs. Blackhead and Company threw them back on Weismann; and Weismann is trying to throw them back on the plaintiffs on the ground that they are not proper biscuits, and not up to sample.

Evidence for the defendant was called.
The case was adjourned.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

Thursday, 16th March.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

WONG LUT WAN V. TAM CHAK U.

The Chief Justice gave judgment in this action. The Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. R. Harding (of Messrs. Ewens and Harston) appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. Almada e Castro, for the defendant.

His Lordship said:—This is an action to compel specific performance of an agreement in writing for the purchase of certain property in the pleadings specified dated the 28th May 1903; with a claim in the alternative for damages. The making of the agreement and the payment of a deposit on account of the purchase money is admitted by the defendant but he denies that the plaintiff is entitled to call upon him to perform the agreement and claims a return by the plaintiff of the deposit paid on account of purchase money on the ground that he had entered into the agreement and paid the deposit on the faith of the material representation made to him by the plaintiff and by the plaintiff's agent that the property was at the time bringing in a rental of \$650 a month which was in fact untrue. This material representation the defendant says was made to him both verbally and in writing and he produces a document which if genuine supports his contention. This document purports to be a written authority by the plaintiff to a broker one Cheung Fu Shan to sell certain houses in Richmond Street then bringing a rental of \$650 a month. The document as translated is as follows:—The maker of the order is Wong Lut Wan who has now handed over to Cheung Fu Shan six European houses in one row on an area of 75,000 square feet on lots numbered 12.6 and 609 in Richmond Street on Green Mount. It is distinctly agreed that the fixed price of \$61,500 shall be charged payable in bank notes. The time up to the first day of the 5th moon is fixed for the payment of the bargain money of \$6,150. Brokerage is to be calculated at \$1 per \$100 and if the time fixed is over this paper shall be treated as waste paper. This is proof. Rent for each month \$650. Kwang Su 29th

Year 4th Moon 30th day. Writing made by Wong Lut Wan.

The 1st day of the 5th moon is the 27th of May. The 29th Year of Kwang Su the 4th moon 30th day is the 26th May, 1903. The defendant declares that this document as it now stands was on the evening of the 26th May, 1903, handed to him in his house by the plaintiff's broker and his evidence in that respect is corroborated by one Sz Hoi Chu a friend who stated that he was in the defendant's house at the time. It is admitted by the plaintiff that the document, with an exception I will mention, was written by him and handed to the defendant by the broker by his authority; but the plaintiff denies that the words "Rent for each month \$650" were written by him or with his authority. He says that when he handed the document to the broker for the purpose of being given to the defendant those words were not on the document; and the broker adds the statement that when he handed the document to the defendant it did not contain the words "rent each month \$650"; but concluded with the words "This is proof." On the other hand the witness Sz Hoi Chu declares that those words were on the document when it was handed to the defendant by the broker. He says that the defendant having asked him if he considered he had made a good bargain, he looked at the document and observed that the rental was stated to be \$650 a month. The direct testimony as to whether the words constituting the material representation were or were not on the document when it was handed to the defendant exactly balances. Two witnesses swear positively one way and two swear as positively the opposite way. The question is where does the truth lie? I think this question can only be satisfactorily answered after a consideration of the probabilities. I will first consider what material facts may be regarded as established and then what legitimate conclusion may be deduced from them. We have it established that at the time the plaintiff placed the houses in the hands of the broker to sell them the locality in which they were situated had a bad reputation for fever; that in consequence four of the six houses were then unoccupied, and so remain to this day; and that for a similar reason the remaining two became vacant shortly after the property was sold to the defendant. It is clear then that at the time the plaintiff employed the broker to sell those houses he had a strong inducement to do what he could to rid himself of the property. We have it further established as a fact that the words "rent for each month \$650" which the defendant says were added by the plaintiff after the rest of the document had been written bear a strong resemblance to the plaintiff's handwriting. The explanation suggested by the defendant is that yielding to the temptation of getting rid of the property which could not be rented the plaintiff inserted the untrue representation as to the rental in a feigned hand in order to enable him when the inevitable discovery of the truth took place to repudiate the representation as emanating from him. The explanation offered by the plaintiff for the admitted similarity is that the defendant desiring to get out of his bargain added the words "Rent for each month \$650" after the document had been handed to him by the broker either himself imitating the plaintiff's handwriting or procuring someone to do so. On behalf of the plaintiff a man now in his employ who was at the time the gardener of the tenant of one of the houses then rented and who was acting as caretaker of the four empty houses gave evidence that on two occasions prior to the 27th May the defendant visited and inspected the houses on one occasion accompanied by the broker and on the other occasion by a stranger to whom he spoke of the houses in terms of praise. The suggestion is that the defendant had entered into negotiation with the broker for the purchase of the houses as a speculation well knowing them then to have a bad reputation for fever but expecting to get them cheap in consequence, and believing at the time that he saw his way to sell them at a profit; and that he was still under the belief that he signed the agreement at Mr. D'Almada's office for purchase; but that he subsequently failed to re-sell and desiring to be relieved of his bargain he conceived the idea of alleging a

misrepresentation inducing him to purchase and thereupon forged or procured the forgery of the words "Rent for each month \$650" added to the end of the authority to sell given by the plaintiff to the broker. In support of this suggestion the plaintiff tendered the evidence of a European architect to the effect that in his opinion the houses were cheap at the price for which the plaintiff agreed to sell them. The defendant however absolutely denies the assertion that he visited and inspected the houses before he purchased them, and points out that the assertion rests upon the uncorroborated evidence of the gardener and the broker both of whom he submits are to be regarded as interested and biased persons, the gardener being in the present employ of the plaintiff at \$15 a month, and the broker depending for his commission on the success of the plaintiff in this action; and he submits that the architect's opinion is open to the criticism that houses which cannot be rented can hardly be said to be cheap at any price. The contention of the plaintiff is moreover that the defendant whom he describes as a land speculator did not rely upon the alleged representation that the houses were let for \$650, but that he visited the property and inspected it and knew that four out of the six houses were unlet and that of the remaining two one was let for \$100 a month and the other for \$96. In other words the plaintiff asserts that so far from the defendant believing that the houses were rented for \$650 a month he knew only two were rented for \$196. Is it true as asserted by the gardener and the broker, but denied by the defendant, that he visited and inspected the houses before entering into the agreement to buy them? If he did he must of course become aware of the fact that four of the six were unrented. He is described by the plaintiff as a sharp business man and a speculator in land and house property. If that description is fair then it must be assumed that he would on finding four of the six houses empty enquire into the cause. Enquiry would have disclosed to him the fact that these houses could not be let because of their evil reputation for fever. Yet this business-like land speculator entered, it is alleged, into an agreement to buy for \$61,500 six houses knowing that four of them were empty and not likely to be let, and knowing that all the return he could depend upon was the rent for two houses let on short tenancies and producing in all \$196 a month. Such conduct on the part of a man may be possible but it is not such as would be expected. This suggestion that he would be tempted by the low price at which he was getting the houses does not carry much weight for \$61,500 is a very large sum of money; and as I have said it seems to me a misuse of the terms to describe as cheap at that sum a row of houses which cannot be let. The houses, it is admitted, are at present, nearly two years after making of the agreement, to enforce which this action is brought, still unlet. It seems to me more likely that the plaintiff, the owner, who knew the reason why he could not let his property, would be possessed of a strong desire to get rid of them, rather than that the defendant, a speculator knowing of their reputation for fever, would be likely to burden himself with property that, assuming he knew of the evil reputation, he must have known he would in all probability have great difficulty either in renting or selling. If the evidence of the compadore Sz Hoi Chu who appears to be a very respectable man is accepted, then it is established that two days before the agreement for the purchase was signed at the office of Mr. d'Almada who was acting as solicitor for both parties the added words were as they now appear on the broker's written authority from the plaintiff. Why should that man's evidence be rejected? He is about the only disinterested witness who gives really material evidence. The question then is were the words in dispute on the broker's authority before the agreement was signed at Mr. d'Almada's? On that question Mr. d'Almada's evidence is of importance. He says that on the 27th May, the day following the one of which Sz Hoi Chu spoke, the defendant came to his office and told him that he had bought the property for \$61,500; that he expressed doubts as to the wisdom of the purchase; and that the defendant then said to him "Oh that's all right; the rental is \$650" at the same time pro-

ducing the broker's written authority to sell. Mr. D'Almada added that he speaks Chinese but cannot read or write that language but he keeps clerks who do both. He did not however call one of the clerks in to translate the document because he accepted the defendant's statement. Later in the same day there was a meeting at Mr. D'Almada's office between the plaintiff and the defendant which has a most important bearing upon the question I am now discussing to which I will refer later. In the meantime I will deal with the question—what effect should be given to what took place at the morning's interview. First it is to be observed that though Mr. D'Almada cannot read Chinese he keeps clerks who can and that while he does not read Chinese he speaks the language. Is it likely that the defendant would have produced to such a man the broker's authority in support of his statement that the houses were rented for \$650 if the words which bear out the statement had not been on the face of the document? How was he to know that Mr. D'Almada did not read Chinese or that he would not call in one of his clerks to read the document to him? Next it is to be remembered that according to the plaintiff's evidence the defendant then knew that the houses were not let for \$650 but that the majority were unlet and only two let for \$196. The suggestion is that the defendant, though he was then under no obligation to enter into the agreement to purchase, and though he was well aware of the evil reputation of the houses and consequently of the probably worthless character of his bargain was yet of so recklessly speculative a character as to be ready and willing to risk \$61,500 on the chance that if he subsequently found it impossible to re-sell at a profit he would be able by means of a forgery to repudiate his bargain, and that to enable him to sustain his case to repudiation he invented his statement to Mr. D'Almada respecting the rental which his purchase was then bringing in! That theory of the plaintiff is however undoubtedly open to the criticism that the whole fabric of the intended fraud would have been destroyed had Mr. D'Almada called one of his clerks to translate the document which the defendant handed or showed to him to support his statement as to the rental. The risk in that respect would have been so great that it must be assumed that the defendant spoke truly when he said that the broker's authority would bear out his assertion as to the rental; and that if the defendant is guilty of the crime imputed to him he must have added the words previously to going to the office of his solicitor Mr. D'Almada. The probabilities appear to me to favour the view that the added words were on the document at the time of the defendant's visit to Mr. D'Almada on the morning of the 27th May 1903. I do not think the defendant would have ventured to make the assertion he did to his solicitor with respect to the document he produced, unless that document had at the time contained the words "Rent for each month \$650." I assume therefore that those words were on the document at the time of the defendant's visit to his solicitor on the morning of the 27th May. The question is were those words inserted in that document by the defendant for the purpose of furthering the nefarious design imputed to him by the plaintiff, or were they on the document when it was handed to the defendant by the broker on the previous evening. It seems to me that what took place at the interview between the defendant and the plaintiff at Mr. D'Almada's office on the afternoon of the 27th will throw the light that will enable me to come to a proper decision on that question. In order to understand the attitude of the plaintiff on that occasion, and to appreciate the value of what he did or said, or omitted to say, it is necessary to bear in mind the fact that he was not present at the morning interview between the defendant and Mr. D'Almada. He did not know that Mr. D'Almada had expressed a doubt as to the wisdom of the defendant in making the purchase, nor did he know that the defendant had justified his action by stating the large rental he would receive. At the interview in the afternoon there were present only the two parties and their solicitor. Mr. D'Almada says that while he was perusing the title deeds of the property which had been brought by the plaintiff preparatory to preparing the agreement

he heard the plaintiff talking to the defendant endeavouring to raise the price from \$61,500 to \$63,000; that the defendant refused to agree to the rise; and that ultimately producing the same document which he had produced in the morning in support of his assertion that the rental was \$650, the defendant showing it to the plaintiff said "No! Your order is for \$61,500. Is not that your order?" Mr. D'Almada says that the plaintiff looked at the document produced to him by the defendant and said "Yes," and the agreement was thereupon signed; and the bargain money paid on the following day.

Now the importance of that evidence lies in the fact that the plaintiff on the document being shown to him by the defendant made no reference to the words "Rent for each month \$650" assuming, as I think I must, that those words were at that time on the face of the document. The explanation offered for him is that if they were there he did not see them; that the question between himself and the defendant was then confined to the amount of the purchase money which he wished to raise from the amount stated in the document, and so he may very well have overlooked the words relating to rental. However that may be, it is hardly conceivable that the defendant assuming those words were there and known to him to be added forgeries placed there by himself for certain possible future contingencies, would for a second time that day have deliberately incurred the risk of detection and exposure. On the other hand it is conceivable that the plaintiff may have seen the words "Rent for each month \$650" and yet not repudiate them; for on the theory of the defence the time for his so doing had not arrived, and it must be remembered that he knew nothing of the conversation between the defendant and his solicitor at the morning interview when the defendant had produced the document in support of his assertion regarding the rental he expected to receive from his projected purchase.

On the theory of the defence for the plaintiff to have repudiated the words then would have been to destroy his chance of selling the property and would have defeated the very object he had in view in inserting them. The interview just referred to had taken place at Mr. D'Almada's office on the 27th May. On the 15th June the defendant consulted Mr. D'Almada as to his right to rescind the agreement. He had, he says, in the meantime after the signing of the agreement and paying the deposit, discovered the fraud that had been perpetrated on him. On going to see his purchase he had for the first time become aware that four of the six houses were empty; and two only let at sums which aggregated \$196 a month. On the 15th June the defendant again produced the broker's authority to sell, and Mr. D'Almada says it appeared to him identically the same document which he had produced at the two interviews already referred to. The defendant left the document with his solicitor, and next day on the plaintiff's arrival at the office for the purpose of completing the sale and receiving the balance of purchase money, the document was handed to the defendant, who producing it said he refused to complete the bargain as the rental was not as represented on the broker's written authority. According to Mr. D'Almada the plaintiff then said "Let me see the order," that on its being shown to him he examined it and declared that the portion relating to the rental had not been inserted in the document by him; that the defendant then said "You admitted the document to be written by you at the time I signed the agreement to buy the property; now you deny that you wrote all of it." Plaintiff replied—"Yes, but I did not then carefully examine it." With reference to this reply Mr. D'Almada said "I was present at the time. I saw plaintiff then looking at the document. He appeared to me to be then reading it." The upshot was that the defendant refused to complete, and in October of the same year, some five months later, the plaintiff commenced these proceedings. No explanation of the delay is given, but it has had no weight with me in the consideration of the sharp issue joined in this case between the parties. It seems to me for the reasons I have given that the probabilities are on the side of the defendant. I believe that the representation as to the rental

was made to him by the plaintiff through the broker, and that he as a fact signed the agreement to purchase relying upon that representation; and that he made no independent examination of the property until after he had bought it, when he discovered the misrepresentation that had been made. The property was easily accessible, and the defendant could have made an inspection had he pleased before signing the agreement; but I find as a fact that he did not. The fact that he had the means of discovering the fraud is therefore immaterial. (Redgrave v. Hurd 20 Ch. Div. 1).

I therefore hold that the defendant is entitled to rescind the agreement of the 28th May 1903 made between himself and the plaintiff for the purchase of the property described therein; and that the defendant is entitled to receive back from the plaintiff the sum of \$6,150 paid as bargain money with interest thereon at eight per cent. per annum from the 28th May 1903. Judgment therefore is for the defendant with costs.

Saturday, 18th March.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

REFUSING BANISHMENT.

Chang Mun was charged with refusing the order of banishment that had been made. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C. (Attorney General), instructed by Mr. Morrell (of the Crown Solicitor's office), prosecuted. The prisoner, who pleaded not guilty, was not legally defended. The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. J. D. Kinnaird, C. L. Bruckner, J. Benjamin, F. W. White, L. P. Glessman, C.M.G. Burnie and D. Datan.

On the 7th January prisoner was discharged from Victoria Gaol, where he had been imprisoned for larceny. Shortly afterwards the Governor in Council made an order for the man to be banished. Prisoner was taken to a Canton steamer but returned, and was re-arrested on the 22nd January.

Prisoner was found guilty.

His Lordship said:—We do not want men of your description in the Colony. After being ordered to depart therefrom and remain there out for five years you returned, and are liable to imprisonment. I am going to send you to prison with hard labour, and you will be banished again. China is a vast country, and there is plenty of room for you to look for work there. One year's hard labour.

The Court was adjourned till Monday.

MARINE MAGISTRATE'S COURT.

Tuesday, 14th March.

BEFORE HON. CAPT. L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE, R.N. (MARINE MAGISTRATE).

REFUSING TO PROCEED TO SEA.

Twelve of the crew of the British Steamer *Boscombe* were charged by Captain Mackay, Master of the said ship, with impeding the progress of the ship by refusing to proceed to sea since the 14th inst. in Victoria Harbour.

Robert Mackay stated: I arrived in port yesterday afternoon, and received orders through my agents to proceed to Sasebo in Japan. I informed the crew of this through the mate. The defendants informed the mate that they would not proceed to Japan. I brought the men on shore this morning when they were interviewed by Your Worship.

By the Court: My cargo is coal, which was shipped at Cordiff. I was to take same to Hongkong to await orders. I have received orders to deliver the coal at Sasebo.

The agreement was here produced and read over to the defendants, who said they understood it.

E. Vance, A. B. stated: I have no knowledge of this charge that has been brought against me. The mate only asked us if we wished to go, implying that the choice lay with us as to whether we went or not.

Robert Smith, Chief Officer of the s.s. *Boscombe*, stated:—Lost evening the Captain

gave me instructions to inform the crew that the ship would proceed to Sasebo. On being informed that Sasebo was in Japan, a fireman named White informed me that he would not go. As I left the men a fireman followed me, and I ask him how many were not going. He replied that none of the firemen would go. I then went over to the other side and gave the sailors the same information, but they raised no objection. The men all turned to this morning, and at 8 a.m. I sent word along that those who did not intend to go to Japan were to accompany the captain ashore. In respect to the sailors, when being shipped at Cardiff, I informed them that there was every possibility of the vessel going to Japan, to which they replied that they did not care.

S. White, fireman, said: I certainly informed the First Officer that I would not go.

E. Ball, A.B. said:—I gathered from the papers that it was not compulsory to proceed to Japan, and I desired to learn from the authorities how the matter stood.

W. Huish, fireman: I do not consider my going to Japan is gal.

His Worship: I have already endeavoured to reason with you in respect to the false conclusion to which you have come in refusing to proceed to Japan. You have deliberately signed articles to proceed to countries, in which Japan is included, at a time when that country is at war. Had there been any risks involved in your proceeding to Sasebo, outside the ordinary risks of a seafaring life, I would be the first to recognise them. As it is, I can only regard your action as foolish in the extreme. My warning to you given in my office this morning, has apparently had no good result, but I will give you a final chance to return, even at this eleventh hour, to your duty, if any of you will be sensible enough to do so.

All except two defendants expressed their willingness to return on board, and as the Captain was willing to withdraw the charge preferred against them they were allowed to do so.

One of the two remaining defendants said—"I am a Britisher, and never change my mind."

His Worship informed him that he was laying himself open to a charge of contempt of Court.

The two defendants were sentenced to ten weeks imprisonment, and were ordered to be re-shipped on board their steamer should she return to this port before the expiration of the sentence.

The defendants thanked His Worship and were marched off to gaol.

A SIMILAR CASE.

Henry Nicholson, Master of the British steamer *Algate*, placed five of the steamer's crew before His Worship on a similar charge, and gave similar evidence to the Captain of the *Boscombe*. His sailors at first refused, but afterwards agreed to go to Sasebo. The firemen, however, refused to proceed.

His Worship: I give you men a final chance to act as sensible men, and return to your ship.

The defendants elected to do so, and the master withdrew the charge.

About the suicide of Mr. Henri Vinay at Shanghai (which was recorded by a special telegram in the *Daily Press* on the 15th inst.) the *N.C. Daily News* says:—The deceased was found unconscious in his room at 43, Rue du Consulat, at a quarter past twelve on the 14th inst., with a bullet wound in the head, and the position of the body and the revolver indicate that he took his own life. He died early in the afternoon. The deceased was not in any monetary difficulties, and no reason can be assigned for his taking his own life. Mr. Vinay came out some thirty years ago to the Comptoir d'Escompte of which he was at one time acting manager here, and afterwards established himself as a bill and bullion broker. He was a very energetic man, and most courteous, and an accomplished pianist, always ready to play when asked privately or publicly, and his good nature and brightness of disposition made him popular among all classes of the community and all nationalities. His health has been very indifferent recently, and he had fits of despondency sometimes, but he was always genial and gay among his companions. He will be mourned and long remembered by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. He was unmarried.

COMPANIES.

THE HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN CO., LD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of this Company was held in the City Hall on the 10th March. There were present: Hon. Mr. Gresson (Chairman), Sir C. P. Charter and Messrs. N. A. Siebs, E. Goetz, A. G. Wood, H. Schubart, C. H. Thompson, E. S. Whealler, E. Shellim, A. J. Raymond, and A. Haupt, (directors) E. Osborne (Secretary), Messrs. A. Forbes, L. S. Lewis, J. Orange, T. Arnold and F. Salinger.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the annual report and statement of accounts said:

Gentlemen—The Report and Accounts have been in your hands for some days, and if it be your pleasure, we will accept them as read. Early in the year two disastrous fires occurred. One if not both originated from a highly volatile spirit, which had recently become a new importation into the Colony, and steps have been taken at considerable expenditure, to further safeguard the Company's premises, from this, and other known sources of danger. The working profits you will observe have decreased by \$22,645, mainly attributable to the fires referred to and not to the sanguinary conflict now being waged between Russia and Japan, for although the war has adversely affected our business at West Point, this has been more than counterbalanced by increased profits at Kowloon. A recent valuation of the Company's buildings discloses the fact that the estimated cost of replacing them is considerably higher than the value at which they appear in the accounts, and seeing that rentals, wharves and outdoor property are not insured, your Directors recommend setting aside \$10,000 to form the nucleus of an Insurance Fund. As this fund appreciates it is proposed to underwrite a small part of our own business; meantime the buildings will be insured for their full value, and the sum standing at this account will represent insurance on rentals, and the property not at present covered. The exchange of land referred to in the report whilst giving the Public a fine approach to the new Ferry pier, will at the same time remove what has hitherto been a considerable obstacle in our work, viz, the public traffic on the Praya, and although the Praya itself does not pass absolutely into the Company's possession, we retain the right of purchase at anytime, meanwhile having the use of it for outdoor storage. Under an Agreement made two years ago with the principal importers of Bombay yarn, which became operative from the 1st January last, practically the whole of that important trade has been transferred to Kowloon, and the native yarn dealers who for 18 years have boycotted the Kowloon godowns now clear from them freely, and find them more convenient than the old Wanchai godowns, which have since been leased to the Naval Authorities. It is generally unwise to indulge in prophecy, but I think I may go so far as to say that there are indications of a more favorable year ahead, and with a cessation of war, the prospects of the future are distinctly hopeful. If any shareholder has any questions to ask before the report is adopted, I shall be pleased to answer same.

Mr. ARNOLD: Is the \$30 premium on the new shares to be treated as capital?

The CHAIRMAN: The premium on the new capital is to go to the reserve.

Mr. FORBES had much pleasure in seconding the chairman's motion, which was carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. LEWIS proposed the re-election of Messrs. A. G. Wood and E. Shellim as Directors.

Mr. ORANGE seconded the proposition, which was carried.

It was proposed by Mr. ARNOLD and seconded by Mr. FORBES that the retiring auditors, Messrs W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gourdin, be re-elected, carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN: That concludes the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready on application.

GEO. FENWICK AND CO. LD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The sixteenth ordinary general meeting of Shareholders in this Company was held in the Hongkong Hotel on the 11th March, when there were present:—Messrs. W. Parlane (Chairman) and A. Rodger (Directors), W. G. Winterburn (Acting Secretary and General Manager), J. Rodger, W. King, W. H. Purcell, J. I. Andrew, J. R. McCorquodale, F. R. Forbes, J. D. Kinnaid and Sing On.

ANNUAL REPORT.

In moving the adoption of the annual report and Statement of accounts the CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen: With your permission we will as usual consider the Report as read. The accounts which were posed to each Shareholder some ten days ago do not leave me much to explain. You are all aware from the circular letter posted to each shareholder on the 30th June last, that we have acquired over 200,000 square feet of land, or rather sea-bed, at North Point, and the first items in the Assets which claim attention are one of \$119,495.26 and another of \$4,930.79; the first represents the price paid to Government for the site, and the cost to December 31st last of reclaiming, and fulfilling the other requirements of the Government; the latter, the amount expended on the Steel Wharf, and for sunk iron and concrete piers to rest the Sheer Legs on. The Liabilities on the other side show a loan from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation against mortgages on the Company's properties. This \$120,707.50 has been wholly expended on this property to date. We will have more to say of this scheme at the meeting which will shortly be called to sanction the increase of Capital to finance this extension of our business; meanwhile I will only say that the site acquired is a valuable and most suitable one, and one which must shortly increase in value much over what it will cost us; and that from various causes, such as pressure by the local Government; the Tramway seriously interfering with our free communication with the Harbour; and owing to the extension and development of various European and Chinese engineering concerns: we found but one of two courses open to us, viz: either to shortly be crowded out, or move to more extensive and commodious premises; and having confidence in our ability to successfully compete in our line of business, backed by the increasing value of our present property, we considered that the circumstances warranted the venture. Turning to Profit and Loss account, we regret the year's work does not show the same standard of profit that some former years have done; but everyone at all acquainted with the conditions of the Engineering trade during the past year knows that the work offering was exceedingly small in amount, and what there was, was extremely keenly competed for, thus reducing profits. The amount of \$1,171.13 written off as a bad debt, was an account carried forward from 1903, which your Directors were sanguine of recovering. Indeed we still think there is a prospect of its recovery, but we thought it best to face the loss, and have written it off. The prospects for the present year are favourable, there being many enquiries for several of which we have tendered, and we expect that some of them will come our way. In our less busy times we have employed ourselves in making new machinery for our new establishment: we have also sold some of our old machines at a book profit, replacing them by new and modern machines. We are glad to be able to pay the usual 15 per cent. dividend and trust the accounts as presented will meet with your approval.

Mr. KING seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

It was proposed by Mr. ARNOLD and seconded by Mr. SING ON that Mr. A. Rodger be re-elected a Director. Carried.

Mr. MCCORQUODALE proposed the re-election of Mr. Thomas Arnold as auditor.

Mr. KINNEAR seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN: That concludes the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be posted as far as addresses are known, either to-day or on Monday.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

This meeting was held immediately after the general meeting, the same members remaining. The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting, and the CHAIRMAN before reading the resolution said:—

GENTLEMEN:—Before reading the Resolution to you I would like to say a few words in explanation. The desire to cancel Article 10 and to substitute the one which I will shortly read to you, is not from any doubt of the powers of the Directors under the present Article 10, but that the Company's legal advisers have raised a doubt if we are empowered to increase the Capital by a larger amount than we intend at the moment to issue, our intention being to increase the capital from the present \$150,000 to \$450,000; an increase of \$300,000; and at the same time to issue shares for only one half of the amount, or \$150,000; this conditional on our being able to dispose of our present Wanchai property at a satisfactory figure; for, if we fail to do so, it will in that case be necessary to issue shares for the full \$300,000. There is also some question as to when, under the present Article 10, the shares must be offered; the idea being that they must be offered to the registered shareholders on the date on which the meeting is held confirming the Special Resolution increasing the capital, and not to the registered shareholders when the capital is called up. As this might cause future difficulties, we are advised that the best procedure is to cancel the present Article 10; substituting the one which you no doubt have all seen in the local press, and which I shall now read.

He then read the resolution which has already been published in these columns, and said he should be pleased to answer any questions.

In reply to Mr. ARNOLD the Chairman said the shares would be issued at par. They intended to have a meeting so as to call up the capital on the 1st July and at that time it would be necessary to call up \$150,000.

The CHAIRMAN proposed, and Mr. J. RODGER seconded that article 10 be cancelled, and the new article be substituted and adopted. Carried.

The CHAIRMAN: Another meeting will be held shortly, of which due notice will be given. to confirm this special resolution which has now been passed.

CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LIMITED.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-seventh annual general meeting to be held at the Offices of the general agents, at noon on Thursday, 23rd March, is as follows:—

The General Agents beg to submit to shareholders their report on the Company's business for the year 1904 with a statement of accounts to 31st December last.

The refineries were actively employed during the year, and in consequence of the general advance in Sugar, remunerative prices were obtained in all the consuming markets.

The sum at credit of profit and loss account is \$1,003,812.75 from which has to be deducted \$100,000 paid as an interim dividend on 29th August last, leaving for appropriation \$1,003,812.75, which the General Agents and Consulting Committee recommend should be dealt with as follows, viz.:—

To write off Swatow property...	\$ 50,000.00
„ pass to equalization of dividend fund	450,000.00
„ appropriate to repairs and renewals account	150,000.00
„ bonus to staff	11,000.00
„ final dividend of \$15 per share	300,000.00
„ carry forward to next account	42,812.75
	<u>\$1,003,812.75</u>

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Mr. R. C. Wilcox resigned his seat on his departure from the Colony, and Mr. A. J. Raymond was invited to join the Board in his place.

The Consulting Committee now consists of Sir Paul Chater, J.M.G., and Messrs. A. G. Wood, E. Shellim and A. J. Raymond, who offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Thos. Arnold and W. H. Potts, who offer themselves for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Agents.

Accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

One year to 31st December, 1904.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Paid-up capital		2,000,000.00	
Sundry creditors		296,697.41	
Balance of profit and loss account		1,103,812.75	
Less interim dividend at 5 per cent. paid on 29th August, 1904		100,000.00	
		<u>1,003,812.75</u>	
		\$3,300,510.16	
ASSETS.		\$	c.
Property account consisting of:—			
East Point Refinery		1,581,209.03	
Bowring Refinery			
Swatow Refinery			
Hongkong Distillery			
Cash		3,271.29	
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank		26,892.96	
Raw and refined sugar, &c.		782,727.52	
Spirits and rum		4,823.17	
Charcoal, oil, stores, &c.		226,199.91	
Sundry debtors		250,412.90	
Shipments		\$839,857.91	
Less advances		414,965.62	
		<u>424,952.29</u>	
		\$3,300,510.16	

PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

To balance at debit on 31st December, 1903	\$	c.
.....	1,542,262.05	
To new buildings and machinery		38,946.98
	<u>\$1,581,209.03</u>	
	\$	c.
By balance at date	1,581,209.03	
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.		
To balance of profit and loss account brought forward from last year	\$	c.
.....	147,717.30	
To commission		83,328.65
To remuneration to consulting committee		2,500.00
To auditors' fees		750.00
	<u>234,293.95</u>	
To interim dividend at \$5 per share, paid 29th August, 1904		100,000.00
	<u>334,293.95</u>	
To net balance	1,003,812.75	
	<u>\$1,338,106.70</u>	
	\$	c.
By gain on working	1,337,292.43	
By interest		\$14.27
	<u>\$1,338,106.70</u>	

THE HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY LIMITED.

The report of the board of directors to be presented at the ordinary meeting of shareholders, to be held at the company's hotel, at 12.30 p.m., on Tuesday, the 28th March, is as follows:—

Gentlemen.—In accordance with Section 56 of the Articles of Association, the Directors now beg to submit their Report for the half-year ended 31st December, 1904.

ACCOUNTS.

The Profit on Working Account amounted to \$89,326.25 as compared with \$78,424.49 for the corresponding period of 1903, showing an increase of \$10,901.76.

The Profit and Loss Account, including the sum of \$11,668.65 brought forward from 30th June, 1904, shows a credit balance of \$88,876.58, which the Directors recommend should be apportioned as follows:—

To pay a Dividend of 10 per cent. for the half-year	\$69,000.00
To write off from value of Furniture and Fixtures	12,492.92
To transfer to Repairs and Renewals Account	10,000.00
To write off from value of Steam Launch	2,000.00
To write off from value of Electric Plant	1,228.74
To carry forward to new Account	3,554.92
	<u>\$88,876.58</u>

DIRECTORS.

Mr. E. Osborne retires by rotation, but offers himself for re-election. Mr. R. C. Wilcox has been granted twelve months' leave of absence.

AUDIT.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. H. U. Jeffries and A. R. Lowe, C.A., who offer themselves for re-election.

W. HUTTON POTTS,
Chairman.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET,

31st December, 1904

LIABILITIES.

Capital.—		\$	c.
12,000 shares at \$50 each (fully paid-up)		\$600,000.00	
1,000 mortgage debentures (6 per cent.) authorised issue, at \$500 each		\$500,000.00	
Less 270 ditto held by the Company		135,000.00	
		<u>365,000.00</u>	
Reserve fund, as per last account		100,000.00	
Sundry creditors		35,479.00	
Unclaimed dividends		6,787.00	
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (current account)		77,497.09	
Profit and loss account, balance as per statement		88,876.58	
		<u>\$1,273,639.87</u>	

ASSETS.

Value of land and buildings as per last report:—		
Marine Lot No. 5 and remaining portion of Marine Lot No. 3		\$372,015.60
Remaining portion of Marine Lot No. 7		368,108.20
		<u>\$740,123.80</u>
Praya reclamation—cost of land		22,390.42
New building on reclamation, payments on account		256,256.02
		<u>278,646.44</u>
Cost of three Chinese Houses on sections B, C and D of Inland Lot No. 80		33,000.00
Value of furniture and fixtures, as per last account		\$ 67,207.49
Less written off as per last report		7,207.49
		<u>\$ 60,000.00</u>
Since added		2,092.92
		<u>62,092.92</u>
Installation of electric light		\$ 51,228.74
Less account from special reserve fund		20,000.00
		<u>31,228.74</u>
Stock of linen, crockery and glass-ware, &c.		41,663.03
Stock of wines, provisions, household sundries and stationery, as per inventories		31,576.49
Shares in public companies		5,796.31
Licenses attaching to 1905		2,666.67
Value of steam launch as per last report		7,000.00
Sundry debtors		32,845.95
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (unclaimed dividends account)		6,787.00
Cash in hand		192.55
		<u>\$1,273,639.87</u>

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

For the six months ending 31st December, 1904		
Dr.	\$	c.
To bad debts and refunds		174.85
To crown rent		502.40
To rates		3,103.30
To fire insurance		2,337.89
To debenture Int. on \$500,000 at 3 per cent. =		\$15,000.00
To less returned on debentures held by the company		4,630.87
		<u>10,369.13</u>
To interest account		1,983.65
To directors and auditors' fees		3,200.00
To repairs and renewals		874.77
To balance to be appropriated as follows:—		
To pay a dividend of 10 per cent. =		\$69,000.00
To transfer to repairs and renewals account		10,000.00
To write off from value of furniture and fixtures		12,092.92

To write off from value of steam launch	2,000.00
To write off from value of electric installation... ..	1,228.74
To carry forward to new account	3,554.92
	<u>88,876.58</u>
	\$111,422.57

Cr. \$ c.	
By balance from 30th June, 1904 \$88,876.14	
Less dividend at 10 per cent. =	\$60,000.00
Less transfer to repairs & renewals account	10,000.00
Less written off furniture and fixtures account	7,207.49
	<u>77,207.49</u>
	11,668.65

By rents of shops and offices, old building	\$ 7,290.00
By rents of shops and offices, new building	2,573.47
	<u>9,863.47</u>

By dividends on shares in public companies	497.00
By scrip and transfer fees... ..	42.00
By bad debts recovered	25.20
By profit on hotel working account for the six months ending 31st Dec, 1904...	89,326.25
	<u>\$111,422.57</u>

REPAIRS AND RENEWALS ACCOUNT.

For the Six Months ending 31st December, 1904.

Dr.	
To payments on account of repairs and renewals during the half-year ending 31st December, 1904...	\$12,699.52
	<u>\$12,699.52</u>

Cr.	
By balance from last account	\$ 1,824.75
„ Transfer from profit and loss account, as recommended in last Report ...	10,000.00
„ Profit and loss account	874.77
	<u>\$12,699.52</u>

LUZON SUGAR REFINING CO., LD.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-third annual meeting, to be held at the offices of the general agents, at 12.30 p.m. on Thursday, 23rd March, is as follows:—

The General Agents beg to submit a Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December last.

The Refinery remained silent during the whole of the year under review, there being no outlet for its sugars, but as prospects have lately somewhat improved, arrangements have been made to resume work at an early date.

Inclusive of \$73,905.88 brought forward from the year 1903, the balance at debit is \$85,987.63, which is carried forward to next account.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Mr. J. H. Lewis resigned his seat on his departure from the Colony, and Mr. H. P. White was invited to join the Committee in his place; the Committee now consists of Mr. A. G. Wood and Mr. H. P. White, who offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. Thomas Arnold, who offers himself for re-election.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Agents.

The accounts are as follows:—

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

31st December, 1904.

LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
Capital account	700,000.00
Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s current account	50,656.04
Sundry creditors	683.93
	<u>\$751,339.97</u>

ASSETS.	\$ c.
Property account	629,642.43
Cash	166.29
Coal, Charcoal, stores, &c.	35,014.67
Accounts receivable	528.95
	<u>\$665,352.34</u>

Profit and loss account	85,987.63
	<u>\$751,339.97</u>

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To balance from last year	\$ 73,905.88
To salaries, wages, fire insurance, &c.	9,323.03
To interest	2,708.72
To auditor's fee	50.00
	<u>\$85,987.63</u>
By balance	\$85,987.63

CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-second ordinary general meeting to be held at the office of the general managers, on Saturday 25th March, at 11 o'clock a.m., is as follows:—

Annexed we beg to submit to shareholders the usual annual statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1904.

The net profit is \$38,107.70 which it is proposed to appropriate as follows, viz:—

To place to Reserve Fund	\$5,000.00
To pay a Dividend of \$1.00 per share	24,275.00
To carry forward to next year's account	8,832.70

As the "Perla" could not be run at a profit she was sold to Japanese buyers in August last. The "Rubi" and "Zafiro" have made the service regularly throughout the year between Hongkong and Manila, and, as their earnings show, have proved themselves well adapted to the altered condition of the trade, which now depends more upon foreign passengers and cargo than on Chinese as formerly.

In accordance with resolutions passed on the 5th October 1904 and the 26th October 1904 the Capital of the Company has been reduced to \$750,000.00.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Mr. J. H. Lewis having left the colony, Mr. H. P. White was invited to take his place on the Consulting Committee.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, Messrs. N. A. Siebs, D. E. Brown, H. P. White and A. V. Apcar retire but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The Accounts have been audited by Messrs. T. Arnold and W. H. Potts, who are recommended for re-election.

SHEWAN TOMES & Co.
General Managers.

The accounts are as follows:—

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Balance at debit brought forward from 1903	63,123.66
Consulting committee's fees	4,000.00
Auditors' fees	400.00
Interest	22,710.12
Charges	2,758.43
Amount written off as depreciation and loss	544,790.64
Loss on working account s.s. Perla	29,903.23
Balance	<u>38,107.70</u>
	\$705,798.78

Amount written off capital account as per resolution passed at extraordinary general meeting of shareholders held 5th October, 1904 and confirmed at meeting held 26th October, 1904	606,875.00
Exchange	3,777.16
Profit on working account s.s. Rubi and Zafiro	95,146.62
	<u>\$705,798.78</u>

BALANCE-SHEET.

LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
Authorised capital 30,000 shares at \$50 each	1,500,000.00
Less written off as per resolution passed on 5th October, 1904, 30,000 shares at \$25 each	750,000.00
	<u>750,000.00</u>
Issued and fully paid 24,275 shares at \$50 each	1,213,750.00
Less written off on 24,275 shares at \$25 each	606,875.00
	<u>606,875.00</u>
LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
Calls on shares forfeited now belonging to the company	8,785.00
Underwriting account	13,167.43
Due to General Managers	775.58
Sundry creditors	25,700.52
Company's bankers	276,237.00
Balance of profit and loss account	38,107.70
	<u>\$969,648.23</u>

ASSETS.	\$ c.
Value of steamers Rubi and Zafiro	833,000.00
„ „ Hongkong Buoys & Moorings	3,400.00
„ „ Manila Buoys & Moorings	4,900.00
„ „ Stores on hand	6,000.00
„ „ Coal on hand	5,715.50
Proportion of premium on current policies	53,521.07
Sundry debtors	22,785.43
Outstanding freights 1904	39,535.59
Cash	790.64
	<u>\$969,648.23</u>

THE CHINA IMPORT AND EXPORT LUMBER CO., LD.

The Report of the Directors of this Co. for presentation at the Third Annual Meeting of Shareholders says:—

In presenting to the Shareholders the third annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending the 28th February, 1905, the Directors sincerely regret having to record the death of Mr. H. Snethlage who founded the Company, and to whose untiring zeal in its welfare is primarily due the success which it has attained.

Regarding the business for the past year, the Profit and Loss Account, including the amount of Tls. 2,595.91 brought forward from 1904, shows a credit balance of Tls. 32,894.21, which amount the Directors recommend to be appropriated as follows:—

1. Allow for Agents' participation in Profits of	32,894.21
Less balance for last year	2,595.91
	<u>Tls. 30,298.30</u>
at 10 per cent.	Tls. 3,029.83
2. Pay a Dividend of 10 per cent. per annum in form of interest on the paid-up capital from date of payment until 28th February, 1905, absorbing	26,394.43
3. And carry forward to new account the balance of	3,469.95
	<u>Tls. 32,894.21</u>

Buildings on the Old Lumber Yard, the Company's New Yard and in Tientsin, Hankow, and Tsingtao, for Offices, Drying Sheds, etc., stand in the books at a cost of From which has been written off for depreciation	12,140.29
	<u>1,140.29</u>

Leaving a balance of	11,000.00
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Machinery.—Additional Machinery, costing Tls. 1,820.73 has been purchased for the saw mill, which, including the Tls. 13,000.00 brought forward from last year, shows a value of	14,820.73
From which has been written off for depreciation	2,320.73
	<u>12,500.00</u>

Leaving a balance of	12,500.00
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Furniture.—This stands in the Books at a value of	2,445.91
From which has been written off for depreciation	245.91
	<u>2,200.00</u>

Leaving a balance of	2,200.00
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New Lumber Yard.—Valuable improvements have been made on the property, a large shed under which to season timber having been constructed, and the ground partly filled in to the level of the Yangtsepoo Road.

Special Reserve Fund.—It was considered advisable to set aside a certain percentage on sales of Lumber to a special reserve fund to cover doubtful debts. The amount of Tls. 3,938.76, shown in the accounts, is a clear balance after the deduction of all bad debts incurred.

Capital.—The Capital has been increased during the year from Tls. 251,000.00 to Tls. 278,000.00, by the issue of 270 new shares at par, in order to enable the Company to proceed with the enlargement of their saw mill plant, and to pay the second instalment on the purchase of their property on the Yangtsepoo Road Cad. Lot 6,001. As extensive improvement, are now being carried out on this property, it

has been decided to issue in the coming year a further portion of the balance of the authorized Capital at such time, and on such conditions as the Directors may deem expedient.

Directors.—Mr. J. M. Young retires from the Board by rotation, but, being eligible, offers himself for re-election. Mr. J. Blochyn den joins the Board, and his election requires confirmation. Mr. C. L. Seitz takes the place of Mr. H. Smith age, deceased, as Managing Director.

Auditor.—The Accounts have been audited by Mr. A. R. Leake, who offers himself for re-election.

A. W. BURKILL,
Chairman.

Shanghai, 1st March, 1905.

BALANCE SHEET on 28th February, 1905.

Dr.	Tls.
Capital—2,780 Shares at Tls. 100.00	278,000.00
Deutch-Asiatische Bank	147,937.85
Directors' and Auditor's Fees	1,250.00
Sundry Creditors	50,631.91
Bills Payable	63,883.67
Reserve Fund	10,000.00
Special Reserve Fund	3,938.76
Profit and Loss Account	32,894.21

Tls. 588,536.40

Cr.	Tls.
Buildings and Improvements on	
Property	11,000.00
Lumber yard Property	15,019.34
Furniture	2,200.00
Saw Mill Machinery	12,500.00
Sundry Debtors	141,631.15
Unexpired Fire Insurance Premiums	2,034.87
Deutch-Asiatische Bank, Hankow	627.21
Cash and Native Orders in Hand	8,003.27
Stock of Lumber—	
at Shanghai	312,764.63
at Outports	82,756.3

Tls. 588,536.40

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

For the 12 months ending 28th February, 1905.

Dr.	Tls.
To Directors' Fees	1,000.00
To Auditors' Fees	250.00
To Depreciation on Furniture	245.91
To do on Buildings	1,140.29
To do on Machinery	2,320.73
To Balance	32,894.21

Tls. 37,851.14

Cr.	Tls.
By Balance brought forward from 1904	2,595.91
By Transfer Fees Account—Sundries	3.84
By Working Account—Sundries	35,251.89

Tls. 37,851.14

NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA.

GENERAL AND EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS.

The fourteenth annual general meeting of the National Bank of China, Limited, was held at the head office, Victoria Buildings, on Mar. 18. Mr. C. Ewins presided and there were also present Messrs. G. C. Moxon, Kwan Fong Fuk (directors), G. W. F. Playfair (General Manager), P. C. Potts, J. S. Joseph, A. R. Lowe, E. D. Haskell, Fung Wa Chun, Woo Yik Tai, Kee Sheng, Tung Hoi and others.

The CHAIRMAN said:—GENTLEMEN, I have now to submit to you for adoption the report and accounts for the past year made up on the basis of the reduction of capital to £5 paid up, which was passed by you in September last and sanctioned by the Court in London on the 14th February with the usual proviso that we should bear the title of reduced for one month, which expired on the 14th instant. You will see from the accounts that the net profits amounted to \$114,298.51. Your directors have, however, considered it prudent to strengthen the reserve fund, particularly as it may be desirable to increase our capital either by calling up the balance of £3 per share or of asking you to subscribe for a further issue of shares. What we propose is to send a circular to the shareholders here and elsewhere asking them to state their views in writing so that in arriving

at a decision the board may know that they are acting in accordance with a majority of the shareholders. This plan will enable us to arrive at a better decision than can be attained at this meeting, at which the large section of Home shareholders cannot express their opinion. In view of the approaching departure on leave of our Chief Manager, the board have appointed one of their number, Mr. G. C. Moxon, to be Managing Director. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, I will be glad to answer any question which shareholders may desire to put.

There being no questions I beg to propose the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. G. C. Moxon seconded the proposition, and it was carried.

Mr. J. S. JOSEPH proposed, and it was seconded and carried that the alteration on the Board be confirmed, and that Mr. J. Scott Harston be re-elected a Director and Mr. Horace Mocatta be elected on the London Committee.

Mr. Potts proposed, Mr. E. D. HASKELL seconded, and it was carried that Mr. A. R. Lowe, C.A., and Mr. I. E. Bingham, F.I.A. (N.Z.) be appointed auditors, and that Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths and Co., re-appointed auditors in London.

An extraordinary meeting followed for the purpose of considering the following resolution:—"That Article 115 of the Articles of Association be altered in the following manner—i.e., the word "three" shall be substituted for the word "ten" in the third line of that Article, and the word "two" shall be substituted for the word "three" in the fourth line of that Article."

The Chairman moved the adoption of the resolution without comment. Mr. G. C. Moxon seconded, and it was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN.—A confirmatory meeting will be held this day three weeks, of which notice will be given.

That is all the business. Thank you for your attendance.

THE SHANGHAI GAS COMPANY, LIMITED.

The annual meeting of shareholders in this company was held at Shanghai on March 7th. There were present: Mr. E. Jenner Hogg (Chairman), Messrs. F. Ayscough, J. Cooper, P. F. Lavers and J. M. Young (Directors), Mr. H. King Hiller (Chief Engineer and Acting Secretary), Messrs. J. Ambrose, W. Armstrong, H. F. Bell, A. H. Brooks, P. J. Clarke, W. B. Cheetham, H. E. Hobson, A. Hunt, J. N. Jamieson, C. Selby Moore, E. E. Parsons, W. A. C. Platt, F. W. Potter, A. Reece, D. Reid, M.D., A. Shewan, and R. E. Toeg, representing 2,807 shares and 730 votes.

The Chairman.—It is a great pleasure to meet you again to-day and to be able to present to you such an excellent record of the Company's progress and position. We satisfactorily show that our anticipations of increased business are fully borne out and that our outlay to meet it has been not only prudent but absolutely necessary, and we shall have to continue our provision. You have doubtless studied the Report and Accounts in which we have given you the fullest information, but I may make a few remarks. You will note an increase of nearly 28½ per cent in private consumption, and though we have not much opportunity of extending our public lighting in the Settlements north of the Yangkingpang, we are extending the incandescent gas system in the streets, etc., of the French Settlement. We only supplied one gas engine more last year than in 1903, but the consumption in this form has increased by 45½ per cent. Looking at Working Account, our total receipts are Tls. 432,900.70, against Tls. 366,307.11, an increase of Tls. 66,593.59 or 18.18 per cent. Actual gas sales amounted to Tls. 374,460.02, against Tls. 293,786.54, an increase of Tls. 80,673.48 or 27.45 per cent. There is an increase in the item for tax, but unfortunately we have a falling off in the price of coke, which has reduced our income from that source. We shall get an improvement on the present price when the time comes for re-arranging the contract next month. As to

the other side of this account I need only remark that the increase of expenditure is the necessity of our increased business. With reference to Profit and Loss, I am sorry to say we have to show a loss through an employee who managed to appropriate some of the consumers' deposits. We endeavoured, but failed, to obtain redress in the Consular Court. There was also an unusually large bad debt, and this too we were unable to recover. Precautions have been taken which will, I believe, prevent the recurrence of such like misfortunes. The state of the debenture market will account for the bulk of the debit entry of Tls. 8,658.78, as we, like others, had to issue some of our debentures under par. On the other side, I need only explain that interest account is the balance after crediting this account with interest on plant and buildings in course of construction less the debit of interest on overdraft etc. You will have been fully prepared for the important additions to our assets as shown in the Balance Sheet. I need only say that they are, for the present, fully supplying the needs of the Company. On the other side, you will find that, as anticipated at our last annual meeting, our capital account has been increased to Tls. 800,000, our debenture issue of 1900 completed up to Tls. 200,000, and a further credit added to our share premium account through the issue of the further capital at a premium of Tls. 25 per share. Having thus explained the accounts it is now my pleasing duty to ask you to approve the appropriations we propose of our balance of Tls. 142,861.95, as stated in the report. It is a matter of congratulation that we are fully able to keep up the same return per share as last year, although it is on a capital increased from Tls. 583,800 to Tls. 800,000. We have written off amply for depreciation under the different headings, and I am sure you will endorse the prudence of a transfer of Tls. 20,000 to renewals and depreciation accounts, bringing it up to the substantial sum of Tls. 145,000. As to the future, all indications point to an undiminished rate of progress, and this cannot be surprising to any who have taken an interest in what has been and still is, going on elsewhere, since the improvements and developments following on the invention of Welsbach. It is impossible to ignore the practical meaning of the fact (not to mention others) that two new magnificent thorough-fares in London are being lighted with gas after the Holborn Council had decided that "the lighting should leave nothing to be desired." And those who wish to learn have only to study the accounts of the recent gas exhibition in London to understand what splendid results are now obtainable from gas for lighting, heating, and power. I need not say much more about our progress here. We are now frequently making 1,300,000 cubic feet in a day. On China New Year's day we reached 1,855,200 cubic feet, and it is interesting to compare that with the corresponding date in 1900 when it was only 721,000 cubic feet, which at that time pleased us very much. During 1905 our coal supply will cost us rather less per ton than last year, and we have a large scheme for improved distribution, and you may rely on our keeping abreast of the times in all directions. I have no doubt that this will, before long, compel us to extend our expenditure on works that must be provided as they become necessary, and which will involve the raising of further capital in some form or other. I hope that the day is not far distant when we shall be able to effect a further reduction in the price to consumers. Adopted as circumstances permit this policy has everything to recommend it. It confers a benefit on our consumers and it tends to increase our consumption; in fact, "It bleaseth him that gives, and him that takes."

The following resolutions were put and carried unanimously.

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. J. M. Young: That the report and accounts as presented be accepted.

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Cooper: That a final dividend for the year ended the 31st December 1904 at the rate of seven per cent on the paid-up capital of the company be paid to the shareholders.

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Lavers: That a bonus of Tls. 1.50 per share be

paid to the shareholders on the paid-up capital of the company for the year 1904.

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Cooper: That the balance at credit of profit and loss account, remaining after the payment of the dividend and bonus on the shares declared at this meeting, be appropriated as recommended by the directors in their report for the year 1904.

Proposed by Mr. Hobson, seconded by Mr. Clarke: That the appointment of Mr. F. Ayscough as a director of the company be confirmed.

Proposed by Mr. Platt, seconded by Mr. Ambrose: That the appointment of Mr. E. Jenner Hogg as a director of the company be confirmed.

Proposed by Dr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Shewan: That Mr. J. M. Young be re-elected as director of the company.

Proposed by Mr. Toeg, seconded by Mr. Bell: That Mr. W. H. Anderson be elected auditor of the company.

THE SOY CHEE COTTON SPINNING CO., LD.

The annual meeting of this Company was held at Shanghai on March 7th. There were present: Messrs. M. Mittag (Chairman), A. Zickermann, A. Hoertler, Woo Sawchin, and Ho Hsien-chu (Directors), R. Lemke (General Manager), A. L. Charlton, F. Grünwald and Vice-Consul Mezzer.

The CHAIRMAN.—Before entering into the business of the day, it is with extreme regret I have to inform you that Mr. Joh. Noetling, the Chairman of our Company, died on the 26th of September, 1904, and I would request you to rise in memory of the deceased gentleman, who was connected with our Company practically since it was inception.

Those present rose in their places for a moment, and on resuming their seats, the Chairman continued:

You will have seen that the profit on Working Account for last year amounts to Tls. 80,532.29, as against Tls. 88,758.80 for the preceding year. This result, I regret to say, cannot be called satisfactory, although the fact must not be lost sight of that our mill, and the cotton spinning industry generally in this part of the world, have been, and are still, passing through anxious and troublous times. The balance at credit of Profit and Loss Account, after the deduction of all charges, interest, etc., amounts to Tls. 49,124.79, which includes the sum of Tls. 26,389.77 brought forward from 1903 accounts. Your Directors have been unable to declare a dividend out of this balance on hand, but have deemed it advisable to provide for an increase of our Legal Reserve Fund, in accordance with the Rules of Association, and for depreciation of machinery and furniture accounts as set forth in the report, and to again carry forward some Tls. 22,000 to new account, to provide for contingencies. Upon examination of the accounts you will find that this rather unsatisfactory result has been brought about chiefly by the increased amount on interest account which we have had to contend with, viz., Tls. 51,670.43. This, gentlemen, may be considered as a direct outcome of the political situation, which not only practically closed the Northern ports to us for some time,—our production being to some extent dependent upon those outlets, but also adversely influenced our business generally. Although we have been able to dispose of last year's production at prices leaving a fair margin of profit, our stock of yarn is kept on an abnormally high figure practically all the year round, thereby necessitating an extraordinary strain on our financial resources and involving a very heavy expenditure on interest account. I may state, however, in this connection, that we have been able to make satisfactory arrangements with our buyers, whereby our stock will be gradually reduced during the next months, and I am pleased to say that there are already signs of improvement; our stock of manufactured yarn in godown decreasing daily. In regard to the working of our mill during the year under review, I am glad to state that the same has worked satisfactorily and steadily all the year round, with practically no irregular interruptions at all.

The following resolutions were put and unanimously carried:—

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. R. Lemke:—That the report and accounts as presented be passed,

Proposed by Mr. Zickermann, seconded by Mr. Woo Saw-chin:—That the election of Mr. Hoertler as a director be confirmed.

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Ho Hsien-chu:—That Messrs. A. Zickermann and Woo Saw-chin be re-elected directors.

Proposed by Mr. Lemke, seconded by Mr. Zickermann:—That Mr. R. Gerecke be re-elected auditor.

THE WEIHAIWEI LAND AND BUILDING CO., LD.

The annual meeting of shareholders in the Weihaiwei Land and Building Company, Limited, was held at Shanghai on March 8th. There were present Messrs. W. A. C. Platt (Chairman), E. Jenner Hogg, A. McLeod (Directors) P. F. Lavers (Secretary), W. C. Murray, A. P. Wood, H. F. Bell, W. S. Jackson, H. W. G. Hayter, A. L. Anderson, Captain J. B. Lowe, J. M. Young, W. D. Little, and R. B. Allen. The shareholders present represented 1,168 shares.

The Chairman: The accounts show a much more satisfactory state of affairs than any others that have been put before you at our annual general meetings. This is to a great extent due to our having been able to dispose of a part of our property known as Estate No. 6. That estate cost us and stood in our books at Tls 7,770.02 and we sold it for £1,850 or Tls. 14,557.38, realising thereby a net profit (after paying expenses) of Tls 6,423.43. We have been able to pay off our debit balance with the Bank, and have now a credit balance. We have written off 33½ per cent. from furniture account, and we have invested in Shanghai Gas Company debentures the sum of Tls 8,691.24. This sum, we suggest, should be used for developing the Company's business so soon as we learn definitely the British Government's intentions with regard to the future of Weihaiwei and sufficient encouragement is given to invest capital in the place. I am sorry to say we have not been successful in obtaining from the British Government payment of our claim for the 1901 rents of the bungalows. When Mr. Hogg was in England he got certain Members of the House of Commons to take an interest in the claim and did all he could to get the claim recognised, but without success. Our thanks, however, are due to Mr. Hogg for the trouble he took in the matter. We think it as well to leave this item still standing in our books in the hope that some day the justice of our claim may be recognised. At the last annual meeting a shareholder suggested that the advantages of Weihaiwei as a deep water port, and otherwise, should be brought to the notice of big shipping firms. Steps have been taken in this direction, but we are afraid that until our Government makes known its future intentions with regard to Weihaiwei, no extensive private outlays will take place in godowns and shipping facilities. Eight bungalows are now let for this season, which is the best the Company has yet done. The furniture account has been considerably written down, and as the Company's buildings have been kept in good repair we think we can say the general financial position of the Company is sound, and puts us in a position to take advantage of any opportunity that may arise for furthering the Company's interests.

The following resolutions were put and carried unanimously:—

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Murray: That the report and accounts be accepted and passed.

Proposed by Mr. A. L. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Bell: That Mr. W. A. C. Platt be re-elected a director of the Company.

Proposed by Mr. W. D. Little, seconded by Mr. Young: That Mr. A. R. Leake be re-elected auditor.

THE TIENSIN LAND INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

At the annual General Meeting of the Tientsin Land Investment Company, held on Feb. 23rd, there were present Messrs. Charles Denby (Chairman) Tsai Shou kie, C.B. Morling, W.T.L. May, W. M. Henderson, A.P. Peck, W.A. Moring, R.A. Cousins, and E.L. Cockell, representing 4214 shares. The

following statement was made by the Chairman.

Gentlemen:—We have to submit to you today our third annual report, and with it we place before you the general working account and balance sheet for the year ended December 31st 1904. After considering the accounts I shall ask you to adopt them and also to proceed to the election of two directors in accordance with the articles of association. The first item in the Balance Sheet is capital account. The same amount, viz., Tls. 772,600.00 is now outstanding as at the time of our last report, but it is now fully paid up. Attention should be called to the fact that of our new capital one-half was paid up on October 1st, 1903, and one-half on April 1st, 1904, all ranking for dividend from January 1st, 1904 and a large part of which could not at once be used in our business as it takes some time to absorb the money in the business of the company. This will explain why in 1904 we have declared only 7 per cent. dividend as compared with 9 per cent. in 1903. As soon as this condition is altered and all our money goes into buildings, we can reasonably expect that the previous rate of earnings will be exceeded. Of our land the amount actually built on is as follows:—Land, 351.584 mou; built on, 126.366 mou; making 35 per cent. now developed and, as we cover more of our present unused land, we can hope for greatly increased profits. Our debentures stand as on 31st December, 1903, viz., Tls. 452,800.000.

CANTON.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

HAROUN-AL-RASCHID AT CANTON.

Viceroy Sham received orders from Peking to return and see to Kwangtung affairs. He was also requested to root out all robbers and pirates—a big contract. His arrival has waked up the Mandarins, and the Gentry with whom they have been arranging "squeezees" have vanished into retirement. From this modest self-effacement, Ng Chum-hui of Canton has been dragged, and asked to account for blackmail he is alleged to have received from a monk of the Cheung Shan Monastery, who presumed to doubt the wisdom of the enlightened Emperor in ordering that a part of the said Monastery be used as a Commercial College to be established by the Canton Government. The monk has been accommodated with a lodging in the goal, so that he may have adequate leisure for dignified and pure-minded internal reflection. His Excellency has commanded that all robberies be reported to himself; but as before-time the practice of the Mandarins was to permit all complaining persons to pay the yamen runners for investigating such complaints, he has not heard of many. It is said that His Excellency is copying the ruler in "Arabian Nights," and going out at night, unattended, to look-see for himself. The Chinese reporter comments: "No Viceroy or Governor ever did this before."

SEVEN ROBBERS CAUGHT.

The Viceroy has sent some officers to Macao to take over the notorious robber named Lam-Kwo-Sg, who committed robberies and crimes of every description, and who, being hardly pressed by the soldiers, took refuge in Macao, where he was afterwards captured by the police of Macao at the request of the Canton government some four months ago. It is now said that the Macao Government has consented to hand him, together with six other robbers who were also arrested in Macao, to the Canton Government. In the district of Hung Shan well-to-do citizens were frequently reported to be captured and held to ransom by robbers, who appeared in large bands. Sometimes thousands of dollars were paid for the release of a single one; but as the robbers were so numerous, each one often had only a small "dividend." Of late, armed with revolvers, they often appear on the roads, to capture any person who happens to pass. The amount of ransom is afterwards decided according to the wealth of the captive. It is said that within the preceding half year, over one hundred persons were thus captured; and the money for ransom amounted to several thousands of dollars.

MUSINGS IN A HONGKONG CHAIR.

The Chinese queue, or, as the maldescriptive but more familiar English phrase has it, the Chinese pig-tail—what numerous reflections it evokes as we pass through the thronged streets in our pair-coolie chair or single harness Pullman car! No synthesis, perhaps, comes of the fleeting thoughts suggested; and, it may be, no axiomatic conclusions. But there it is, that pigtail, coiled round the brachycephalous skull that patiently plods ahead of us; undulating at an angle of forty-five in rear of that hurrying son of Han we almost ran down (he was long in making up his mind whether to await our passing or to run the gauntlet); or it lies meekly, gray, attenuated, eked out with strands of pink cord, between the shoulder blades of a stooping elder. Sometimes we see it, thickly tapering to its tassel, black, glossy, flowing from beneath the jauntily set cap of a young buck, striding as haughtily as magenta silk skirts will let him, eyeing us insolently through oblique casements in a jaundiced gable. With him it is no badge of slavery, as historians bid us believe; it is the mark of manhood, the *toga virilis*, the sword of the samurai. Long enough, often, to play tambo with his lifting heels, it is too precious for such a risk. Like a woman's flounces, it must be hoisted out of murky danger. He tucks it somewhere at his waist. At another time, on another Chinaman, we behold this hirsute appendage put to another use. Wrapped around and around the big brown hand of a Sikh policeman, it is gripped, close to the place of its growing, by those swarthy fingers, what time its tortured owner turns an upward profile, and follows with unwilling gait the line of least resistance. Here, indeed, the explanation of its origin does seem made manifest, and we wonder if the conquering Manchus ordered it as a mere badge of slavery or as a useful handle for the slave's master? The absence of it formerly marked him as traitor and rebellious to the Manchu rule; and part of the procedure when being initiated into a secret society was the cutting off of the queue. Nowadays there be many who are shorn, who yet would kow-tow before a certain low-born Dowager, but these be they who affect the garb of the foreign devil, and take, with his fashions, his money, his learning, and all else of his they can lay hands upon. The conservative Chinaman's distress at the accidental or compulsory loss of his queue, since it is still acute as ever it was, seems to require further explanation than his possible dread of being taken for a rebel, for on such evidence he no longer needs to fear being punished as one. We wonder if there has not been a curious perversion of that which happened in the fable of the fox who left his tail in a gin. He pretended to be proud of his caudal poverty, and strongly recommended his vulpine fellows to make themselves like him. Is it, then, that the Manchu fox persuaded the Chinese foxes to adopt tails; and that they, pretending in the beginning, while it was yet a thing of shame, for their own comfort, and to "save face," a pride and pleasure in the ordained exorcism, have since fallen victim to that self-deceit, and forgotten that the vainglory was assumed? Certainly to-day the pride is real enough, not only in the case of the young buck already mentioned, but also in the grayest veteran who sits in the barber's chair. Another Manchu edict, ordering the removal of the queue, (and such an edict has been reported) would not be eagerly obeyed. So potent is habit, which is called "second nature," that what at the outset must have been a hardship would be unwillingly abandoned, perhaps not until the application of a like force to that which was needed to establish it. Only the Chinese maid as yet loses the pigtail without regret, for with her its disappearance spells matrimony. And womanlike, her sacrifice is an evasion, and no real relinquishment. In the place of the dangling queue she wears an elaborate coiffer, and her hair is not lost, but gone aloft. Moreover—Bump! Ah, here we are! What? Certainly not. Fifteen cents b'long proper fare. Cumshaw? Get away. Annoying people, these coolies. However, whatever they may do with theirs, let us, as a quaint colloquialism of the London gutter puts it, "keep our hair on."

A SAILORS' QUARREL.

FATAL ENDING.

On board the sailing ship *King George* on the night of the 14th March, Emanuel Hernandez, a Spaniard, and Theodore Olsen, a Dane, quarrelled on the fo'c'sle. From words the men came to blows, Olsen striking Hernandez on the right eye with his fist. Thereupon the Spaniard drew a sheath knife and stabbed his opponent, running the knife about four inches into Olsen's groin. The man died before medical aid reached him. The Captain of the ship caused Hernandez to be put in irons until the arrival of the police, when he was taken to the Central Station.

CHARGED WITH MURDER.

Emanuel Hernandez was charged before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court on Mar. 15th, at the instance of Inspector Langley, with the wilful murder of Olsen. Accused pleaded "not guilty." Brob Olsen was the first witness. He stated: I am an able seaman on board the sailing ship *King George*. The accused and deceased, together with two other seamen, were on the fo'c'sle at about 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday, when the two men had a violent quarrel over anguage used by the accused to the third mate. The men came to blows, and the prisoner drew a knife which was in a sheath at his side and struck deceased in the left groin. Deceased ran out through the door on the port side, and accused ran out on the starboard side with the knife in his hand. When the accused saw the blood on his knife he walked over to the port side and threw the knife overboard. Deceased then ran off to the Captain's cabin, and I saw the accused handcuffed.

By the accused: Deceased called you a bastard, but I cannot remember how many times. I did not hear you tell deceased not to call you that.

Dr. Hunter deposed: Yesterday morning I examined the body of the deceased, Theodore Olsen. The body was identified by Captain White, H. R. Lewis, Second Officer, and Sergeant Clincon. There was a stab wound on the left groin about one and a half inches in length which extended upwards and inwards. The depth of the wound was about four inches. The chief blood vessels supplying the left leg were completely severed. The cause of death was a hemorrhage, resulting from the wound. The knife which fitted this sheath (produced) would have caused the wound.

George Cördmann stated: I am an A.B. on the *King George*. Between five and six p.m. yesterday I was in the fo'c'sle, when accused and deceased had a quarrel over what had happened in the afternoon between the accused and the third mate. Deceased called defendant "a—liar." Accused said to the deceased—"I am not a liar, you were not there." Then deceased said to the defendant—"If you don't keep quiet I will hit you in the face." Defendant said to the deceased—"You called me a liar before; I am not a liar. You are a liar." Deceased then jumped up, called the defendant a bastard, and struck him on the face. Accused and deceased were seated on a bench, and when accused was struck by the deceased, he fell on to his left side. Accused then drew his knife from its sheath, and struck at deceased, the knife entering his groin. The sheath produced belongs to the defendant. Deceased then ran out of the port door of the fo'c'sle in the direction of the stern. The accused ran out of the starboard door and went in the same direction. I had followed deceased, going out of the same door as he did. I then saw the defendant and said to him—"You have done something very bad; look at the deck covered with blood," pointing to where Olsen had been running. I then saw defendant with his own knife, bloodstained, in his right hand. He glanced at his hand and threw the knife overboard. I saw deceased go to the Captain's cabin door and call, then he laid down on the deck. Accused was finally put in irons.

James Herbert said: I am an A.B. on the *King George*. While sitting at supper about six o'clock on Tuesday evening, deceased said to the accused: "The Chief Mate was on to you to-day for not doing that work properly." The accused said "You're a liar; he wasn't." Deceased said—"If you call me a liar, I'll

smash you." With that deceased struck accused on the face, whereupon accused drew his knife and stabbed deceased. I said to accused "What made you use the knife?" I then went aft to attend deceased.

James Curtis White, Master of the sailing ship *King George*, stated: Yesterday at about 6 p.m. I was sitting in my cabin. I heard a noise at my door, and went out to see what was the matter. I saw the deceased holding his groin with both hands, while blood was flowing from a wound. I asked the deceased "Who did this?" He replied "Mannel," by which name accused is known on board. On examination, I found that deceased was stabbed on the groin. I sent for medical assistance and a doctor arrived about half an hour afterwards. Meantime I took deceased to the Mess room and laid him on the table, where I proceeded to bandage his wound. He died about seven o'clock. The accused always bore a good character.

In reply to Inspector Langley: I saw the accused put in irons by the Chief Officer.

Detective Sergeant Wilden gave evidence as to the arrest of the accused.

N. G. Nolan, Interpreter, sworn, gave evidence as to reading over and explaining the charge to the accused, who after being administered the usual caution, made a lengthy statement, wherein he said that the quarrel began because deceased stated at dinner on Tuesday night that the third officer had given him certain work to do which he had not. Deceased said to the accused—"If you do not keep quiet I will knock your head off." He then went from the starboard to the port side and hit the accused, whereupon accused pulled out his knife and ran it into him. Accused further stated that a week after 1st Christmas, while at sea, the deceased struck him, but he did not return the blow.

Hernandez was committed for trial at the Criminal Sessions.

A CHINESE DESPERADO.

EXTRADITION APPLIED FOR.

Before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court on the 10th March Mr. R. A. Harding, on behalf of the Chinese Government, applied for the extradition of Pun Lung Tang alias Pim Wing Nin, who is "wanted" in China to answer a charge of armed robbery at Yung Ki village on the 23rd March of last year.

Mr Harding, in outlining the case, informed His Worship that the application was mainly brought about through the influence brought to bear by Messrs Shewan Tomes and Co., Jardine Matheson and Co., Arnhold Karberg and Co., Siemssen and Co. and other Hongkong firms who had interests in China. These firms had petitioned the Viceroy of Canton, asking him to effect the arrest of the defendant and other persons connected with his band. The silk factory held up was opened on the morning of the robbery about six o'clock, shortly after which all the female weavers entered. Sometime later fifteen men entered the factory; five of them were clothed in soldiers uniforms, while the other ten wore plain clothes. They were all armed, some with revolvers and some with rifles. The remainder of the band which consisted of 70 men all told—remained outside the factory. The men who entered drove the women into a corner, and took charge of three foks who were on the premises. They took them, also the goods in the factory, to their boats which were lying in a creek a short distance from the West river. They then sailed some distance down the river landing at a hut where the defendant put the clothing and arms seized from the factory up for sale amongst his followers. They continued their course down the river and on landing, the defendant ordered one of the factory foks to write to his master for certain goods, telling him that if they were not forthcoming he would be killed. As the goods did not come, the robbers began to starve the prisoners. Later a Chinese gunboat appeared on the scene and after fighting all day vanquished the robbers. During the fight the foks escaped from the hut in which they were confined and reached the gunboat.

Leung Kan gave evidence: I am a silk twister in the employ of the Chung Chan Silk Factory at Yung Ki village in the province

of Kwangtung. On the 23rd March of last year our factory was opened at 8 a.m. by the fireman. The weavers arrived as soon as the doors were opened. About a quarter of an hour afterwards there were about 100 weavers at work. Shortly after this fifteen robbers entered, five of them dressed in soldiers' uniform. There were then twelve foks in the shop. Five of the robbers had revolvers and the remainder had rifles. The defendant, who was in uniform, was the leader of the gang. He ordered the robbers to take three of us to the bank of the river and ship us on boats. The other foks were hiding in the factory. The female weavers were driven by the robbers into one crowd, firearms covering them all the time. The defendant said to me "Don't utter a sound; if you do we will kill you." He then ordered his band to remove the goods—consisting of silk, clothing and firearms to the value of \$3,000 odd—from the factory. On the way to the boat I saw about 50 other robbers. They went to our factory to help remove the goods, which were carried down to the river and placed on board the boats. While this was going on some of the braves of the village opened fire on the robbers, and the robbers returned the fire. We three foks were carried off as prisoners. At 9.30 a.m. we landed at Sai Tin Fan. We were taken into a house. The defendant was there and sold the clothing and firearms. He acted as auctioneer, and members of his band bought the articles. Later on the day we were taken into a farm house at Lai Man Sha about six miles from the factory, where we were confined. On the 29th March the defendant told me to write a letter to my master telling him that in order to ransom us he would have to pay \$8,000, 100 taels of prepared opium and 70 pairs of rubber shoes. Provided these were not forthcoming we would be slaughtered. I wrote the letter and handed same to defendant. The ransom did not come, so on the 2nd April the defendant again interviewed me. He said—"Your master has not sent the money to ransom you, so we'll slaughter you now." I knelt down and asked him to have mercy, and to allow further time for the arrival of the ransom. He said—"Very well. I will grant you a few more days." I wrote a second letter. On the 7th April the military attacked the place. The fighting lasted for a day. It was just like war. During the melee I escaped to the gunboat which brought the soldiers.

CHINESE STOWAWAYS.

At the Police Court on the 10th March before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz seven natives were charged with stowing away on the China Navigation Company's steamer *Chingtu* on the occasion of her last voyage from Hongkong to Australia. Although the usual search for stowaways was made prior to the departure of the *Chingtu* from Hongkong, it was not till the vessel was out at sea that the Chinese were discovered. Their hiding place was found to be a coal tank, which was believed to be full of coal. The Captain informed His Worship that he was liable to a penalty of £100 on each of the defendants had they landed in the Commonwealth. Therefore he had to carry them to Australia and bring them back.

The defendants were each sentenced to nine months imprisonment and were further ordered to pay a fine of \$1,000, or go to goal for another three months.

Seven of the crew of the *Chingtu* will be charged to-day with aiding and abetting the stowaways.

The cook and five firemen of the s.s. *Chingtu* were charged before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Police Court on March 11 with aiding and abetting stowaways. Mr. H. Gedge (of Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master) prosecuted.

The defendants denied helping the Chinese to stow away, but stated that a compradore promised them £30 for each man landed in Australia. The fourth defendant said he did not receive any money, and that it was the fifth who took them on the ship. The fifth said he was informed by the compradore that if they landed certain goods which were to be stowed on board they were to get £30. The goods turned out to be

seven stowaways. The sixth defendant informed His Worship that he knew nothing about the matter.

His Worship considered the offence a very serious one, and felt it his duty to convict all the defendants. The first was sentenced to nine months imprisonment with hard labour and ordered to pay a fine of \$1,000, in default a further term of imprisonment with hard labour for three months and six hours stocks. The second, third and fourth were each sentenced to nine months hard labour and fined \$1,000 or in default six months hard labour and six hours stocks. The fifth defendant was sentenced to three months hard labour, and the sixth to a similar term and six hours stocks, in lieu of one day of the said imprisonment.

The compradore was then charged with aiding and abetting, and inciting the six previous defendants to aid and abet the seven stowaways. The compradore admitted handing the stowaways over to the fifth defendant, who took them on board.

There was only the uncorroborated evidence of the sixth defendant given against the compradore and His Worship held that this was not sufficient to convict, so discharged the defendant.

ARMED ROBBERS AGAIN.

A further report of armed robbery is to hand from the New Territory. In the early hours of on the 11th March a villager heard strange sounds on the road in front of his house. On going to "look see" he saw six men carrying three pigs which were tied on to bamboo poles. His suspicions being aroused, he called out "steal pigs," which brought a number of neighbours out. They instantly gave chase, and the robbers, fearful of capture, dropped their booty and took to their heels. One of the party, finding that the pursuers were gradually gaining on him turned and fired two shots from a revolver into the crowd. This stopped the pursuit, and it was found that both shots had taken effect, one villager being shot in the stomach and a second in the thigh. The matter was reported to Inspector Macdonald at Yaumati and he had the wounded men removed to the Government Civil Hospital. The man who was shot in the stomach is so seriously wounded that he is not expected to recover. He succumbed to his injuries last night.

'BOBBERY' IN DES VŒUX ROAD.

Word was forwarded to the Central Police Station on the 13th March that a riot was taking place in Des Vœux Road in front of the premises of Messrs. A. Jack and Co. Inspector Smith, who was on duty at the time, sent a squad of Police to bring the rioters to the Station in order that he might learn the cause of the trouble. Some fifty or sixty men were marched up, accompanied by the manager of A. Jack and Co. The trouble, it appeared, was because the firm had agreed with the coolies to pay each man a month's wages to go and salve the s.s. *Tsinan*. Provided operations were completed before the month was up, they were (according to the coolies) still to receive a month's pay. The work was finished in seventeen days, and the master of A. Jack and Co. wished to go back on his contract and pay the men for seventeen days only, hence all the "bobbery." The Inspector asked the Manager whether his firm were prepared to pay the amount agreed upon. The Manager said the master would not, so the Inspector informed the spokesman of the coolies that they could seek redress for their grievance in the Summary Court. If they continued their riot in the street, however, they would probably be imprisoned for two or three months.

On the 15th March, during the fog, the Norwegian s.s. *Protus* collided with the British s.s. *Venetia* off Swatow. Both ships were seriously damaged, a hole being knocked in the *Protus*' starboard bow, and a long length of rail being torn from the other ship. The *Venetia* also sprung a leak. The *Protus* was on a voyage from Japan to Hongkong, and the *Venetia* was outward bound from Hongkong to Japan.

THE S.S. "MINNESOTA."

The leviathan *Minnesota* arrived on the 25th March. She experienced fine weather from Manila till quite near Hongkong, at four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, when she was enveloped in a blanket of fog, so thick that the anchor had to be let go. But for this, the vessel would have made a 41 hour passage, as she left Manila at about 3.30 p.m. on Sunday. The vessel experienced very bad weather and head winds across the Pacific. She took eighteen days from Seattle to Japan. Some days it blew so hard that the "run" was less than a hundred miles. Though a heavy cargo was carried across from America less than 500 tons was consigned for this port. For Hongkong, there were 43 cabin passengers, seven intermediate and a hundred Asiatic. She sailed from Seattle 23rd January, arrived at Yokohama, 11th February, at Kobe, 21st February, at Nagasaki, 28th February, at Shanghai, 1st March, and Manila, 9th March. On her return trip to America she takes from Manila 5,600 tons of cargo, mostly bales of hemp and sugar. The local agents are the Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

THE "PRINCESS ALICE."

The overdue German Mail steamer *Princess Alice* arrived from the north on March 15th. She experienced fog all the way down from Shanghai, and, when near Hongkong, one mile south-west of Waglan Island, the weather became so thick that it was considered advisable to drop anchor. That was on Monday night, and the vessel so remained till 11.30 a.m. on the 15th, when the Captain found it to be clear enough for him to proceed.

The *Princess Alice* left for home on March 16th at ten o'clock with a full ship as regards passengers. Included among those for whom passages have been booked are many children. The Captain is going to accommodate two of them in his own cabin. He is fond of children and is quite pleased to do so. The following are some of the most prominent names in the list of departures:—Mr. B. Layton (bullion broker), Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Tomes (Messrs. Shawan, Tomes and Company), Mr. H. E. Tomkins (Messrs. Reiss and Company), Mr. F. Maitland (Messrs. Linstead and Davis), Mrs. Dvoare (wife of the Consul for Holland), Mrs. Becker (wife of the taipan of Messrs. Sander, Weller and Company), and Mrs. Volpicelli (wife of the Italian Consul). Chev. Z. Volpicelli is to accompany his wife as far as Singapore and will be away a fortnight.

MASONIC MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

The large Masonic Temple in Zetland Street is the property of Zetland Lodge (English Constitution) the oldest and largest lodge numerically in Hongkong. It is rented by the many other lodges, at so much per night; all the lodges in the Colony, except the new Lodge Eastern Scotia (Scottish Constitution), holding their meetings there. Brethren of Lodge Eastern Scotia meet in the upper hall of the Seamen's Institute at Kowloon. The Masonic Quadrille Club has, since its institution, held its monthly winter dances in the large banquet hall on the ground floor of the Zetland Street Lodge. The rent, however, \$50 a night, precludes the Club from paying its way. To raise the needed funds, it was decided to hold a smoking concert on the 21st instant. Some dissension arose with Zetland Lodge about the letting of the hall. As a consequence, the concert will be held in the old Chamber of Commerce Room at the City Hall. There is also talk of some of the lodges, perhaps Lodges St. John, United Service, and Naval and Military, finding a new place outside for holding their regular and emergency meetings. The rent that is charged, \$75 to \$100 per night, is considered too much. One lodge, for its twenty meetings last year, is said to have paid no less than \$1,500 rent to Zetland lodge. A prominent Freemason says that it is to be hoped that this question is settled to the satisfaction of all concerned, for if not, Zetland Lodge may find itself with something of the nature of a "white elephant" on its hands.

A NIGHT-OUT:

EXCURSION STEAMER FOG-BOUND.

14th March.
The Sunday excursion steamer *Ying King* running to Macao, reached the wharf yesterday morning just before nine o'clock, instead of at 10.30 on Sunday night. The steamer was crowded with passengers who had been attracted to the neighbouring colony by a religious festival which was observed there on Sunday. She left Macao on Sunday night at 7.30, her usual time, but had not proceeded many lengths beyond the Praya Grande before she ran into a dense fog and was obliged to drop her anchor. After waiting in vain for the fog to lift, Capt. Page weighed anchor and tried to proceed but the risk was too great. The fog bells of the ship were sounded at regular intervals throughout the night, and four times the Captain tried to get his ship through the fog-bank, but it was not until day broke yesterday morning that any progress was made.

As the sleeping accommodation on the steamer is extremely limited, the great majority of the 300 passengers on board had an exceedingly uncomfortable night, but managed to beguile the time by concerts and other amusements. The stock of food and drinks, except tea and coffee, usually carried by the steamboat, was exhausted quite early in the evening, and as many on the boat had had nothing to eat since the tiffin hour, it may be safely assumed that by the time they reached Hongkong they were eager to discuss a substantial breakfast.

The excursion steamer *Wingchai* left Macao an hour before the *Ying King* and reached Hongkong at 10.30 the same evening. Captain Austin describes the weather he experienced as thick haze and passing fog drifts.

The *Wingchai* started for Macao at half-past eight yesterday morning, but did not get as far as Green Island when her skipper thought it advisable to turn back. Two hundred and fifty Chinese passengers on board were naturally disappointed.

The Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company's steamer *Heungshan* from Macao yesterday was also detained by a heavy fog, and did not leave Macao until 10 o'clock instead of at her usual time. She arrived yesterday afternoon at 1.30 o'clock, and brought over about 200 first and second class passengers who went over last Friday and Saturday.

CHINESE CURRENCY

The *Sin-wan-pao* states that the Board of Revenue intends to start a general silver and copper coin-making mint at Peking with the object of establishing a uniform monetary system throughout China. It is learned that all the mints in the different provinces, whose schemes have been proposed, but which have not yet been established, have been ordered to be stopped instantly. In this connection all the copper plants and other materials already ordered will be sent up to Peking for the use of the general mint. On the other hand those mints that have been started have been ordered to be suspended for three months, until the arrival of the steel moulds. The idea is to establish uniformity with regard to the whole coinage system of China, so as to facilitate commercial transactions and to prevent those peculiar evils connected with counterfeit coins. All this looks as if Chang Chih-tung's tinkering policy is to prevail.

CHESS.

Mr. A. L. Jordan, Superintendent of the Great Northern Telegraph Company at Nagasaki, has challenged Mr. C. H. Falloon, of the Atlas Insurance Company's Hongkong Office, to play him at Chess. Mr. Jordan in his letter says that from *Lasker's Chess Magazine* he learned that Mr. Falloon had won the Championship of the Hongkong Chess Club. Continuing—"I take the liberty of challenging you to play by mail two correspondence games. In the first, I take white, starting with (1) P-KB4. In the second game you take white. If you start with P-K4, I reply P-K4." The challenge has been accepted.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The British North Borneo Government has decided to adopt the new Straits currency.

A private telegram has been received in the Colony to the effect that a very big fire has occurred at Cebu, Philippine Islands. The damage is estimated at two million dollars.

Mr. Fiske of the American Tobacco Company Shanghai committed suicide on 15th March. Insomnia and consequent depression are stated to have driven the deceased to commit the desperate act.

Mr. John Lambert R. N. R., who for the past eight years has been in the service of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. as superintendent engineer, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Newman Mumford as Lloyd's Surveyor here, and will take up the duties on Mr. Mumford's departure about the middle of April.

An article on Mr. G. A. Caldwell appears in the March issue of the *V. R. C. Magazine*. From 1893 to 1903, excluding three years of forced absence from the Colony, he has steered the winning crew in twelve international races held in Hongkong. How much we owe to him as a dancing master at the theatrical performances of the local A. D. C. for the past fifteen years is fully appreciated by our theatre-goers; and in the old days, he was a great favourite in local amateur comic opera.

Mr. F. J. Badesley's annual report on the Fire Brigade appears in the current issue of the *Hongkong Government Gazette*. There were 57 Fires and 64 Incipient Fires during the year, as against 49 and 55 in 1903. The Brigade turned out 63 times during the year. The estimated damage caused by Fires was \$761,736.00 and by Incipient Fires \$743 00. There was an intermittent supply of water in the mains from 1st January to 3rd July, during which period sea water was used as much as possible in order to save the fresh water.

A sailor named Wilson was charged before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Police Court on March 14 with stowing away on board the s.s. *Aldgate* from Cardiff. Defendant informed His Worship that he stowed away to come out here to see his relations. His Worship said there were plenty of men "on the beach" here who could not get anything to eat, and provided defendant could not find his relations he would probably swell the number. The case was remanded in order that the Police might make enquiries concerning Wilson's friends.

The *Manila Cablenews* says:—J. R. Simpson was taken off the steamer *Taming* bound for Hongkong on a warrant issued on the charge of endeavoring to leave the country to defraud his creditors. The warrant was issued on the application of the proprietors of the Colonial Livery Stables to which concern Simpson owed \$225. He told the livery stable keepers that he was a civil engineer employed on the Benguet road and promised to pay as soon as he could collect his salary. Nothing was suspected until it was learned that he had taken passage on the *Taming*.

The new steamer *Shuntien*, Captain Dewar, belonging to the China Navigation Company, which made her maiden trip to Tientsin on March 4th, promises to be as great a favourite with passengers as Captain Dewar's former command, the *Shengking*. She is a singlescrew vessel of 1,758 tons gross, and 1,081 tons net, capable of steaming 13 knots when pushed, her average speed on the voyage out having been something over 11½ knots. The accommodation is planned for 24 first-class passengers, and there is plentiful provision for Chinese passengers, first and second-class, on the deck.

The nett profits of the Tientsin Press, Ltd., for the year 1904, amount to Tls. 10,301.89, after writing off Tls. 600 and Tls. 283.43 from Goodwill and Incorporation Expenses, Tls. 649.25 for repairs to Buildings, Tls. 869.65 for depreciation of Furniture, Tls. 1,493.20 for depreciation of Plant and Machinery, and Tls. 447.23 for Bad Debts, there remains Tls. 8,855.03, which the Directors recommend should be dealt with as follows: By payment of Director's and Auditor's Fees, Tls. 1,100; By placing Tls. 880.00 to Reserve; By paying a 7 per cent dividend, absorbing Tls. 6,790.00; and carrying forward to 1905, Tls. 85.03.

A fire broke out in the Che Ching Po Godown, No. 74, Des Vaux Road, on March 16th. The godown was stocked with oil, tarred rope and other inflammable material. The brigade turned out under Deputy Superintendent Lyons and Chief Inspector Baker, and after half-an-hour's hard work, got the fire under way. The damage is estimated at \$300, while the insurance with various companies on the godown and stock amounts to \$35,000. The fire is believed to have originated through a coolie accidentally knocking a lighted lamp into a coil of tarred rope.

During 1904, 1,205 births, 740 males and 465 females, were registered at Hongkong. This is equal to a general birth-rate of 3.8 per thousand as compared with 3.2 during 1903, and 3.8 in 1902. The total number of deaths was 6,118, making a death-rate of 16.94 per thousand as compared with 18.9 in 1903 and 21.7 in 1902. These deaths include 495 from plague. The death-rate among the non-Chinese civil community is slightly higher than it is among the Chinese community, says the Medical Officer of Health. The reason for this is that many of the Chinese when taken ill leave at once for their own country, the cost of passage to Canton being only a few cents.

Mr. H. A. Lammert, junior partner of the wellknown firm of auctioneers, was married on the 14th March, at St. John's Cathedral, to Miss Florence Shaw, daughter of Mr. A. Shaw, manager of the Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing Company. The wedding had been postponed owing to the bridegroom being down with influenza. Mr. Harold Seth was groomsmen, and Miss Ethel Shaw, bridesmaid. The bride wore a white satin dress, trimmed with flowered chiffon, and displayed no jewellery except the bridegroom's present, a diamond and emerald ring. Mr. and Mrs. Lammert were driven to Mr. Shaw's house in a brougham. After the reception, at which a splendid collection of wedding presents was exhibited, they left for Macao.

The M. O. H. in his annual report says:—In my Annual Report for 1899 I showed that the average rainfall during the decade ending that year was eleven and a half inches less than the average rainfall during the preceding decade. In 1902 I showed that the average rainfall had fallen more than sixteen and a half inches during the decade ending that year below the rainfall for the previous decade, and we now see that the average deficiency amounts to nearly twenty and a half inches when the past decade is compared with the immediately preceding one. This is a matter of serious moment in connection with the question of the water supply of the Colony, and indicates moreover a progressive change in our climatic conditions generally.

There arrived in Hongkong on March 16th a postcard of no intrinsic loveliness, but one, like *Othello*, interesting for the dangers it has survived. It was sent on a journey round the world by the editor of *The Manuscript*, with a suggestion that it was "in the interests of journalism" that it should safely accomplish its voyage. Although dated Manchester, August 10th, 1904, it did not leave London until August 24th. On the 17th September an editor in Sierra Leone posted it to Perth, Western Australia. It left there on October 27th en route to St. Johns, Newfoundland. The postmark over the Newfoundland stamp appears to be marked San Francisco, and the date is unreadable. On the 8th November it had skipped over to Egypt, (Alexandria) and it reached Vancouver Jan. 9th, still fit and well. It is spending a few days in Hongkong prior to leaving for Gibraltar and Home. The fare for the round trip amounts to sixteen cents.

The *Customs Gazette* for the last quarter of last year shows a total revenue for the quarter with a marked advance on the previous year, the comparative figures being:

	1904.	1903.
Hk. Tls.	Hk. Tls.	Hk. Tls.
Chinese ports ...	9,284,224	7,899,888
Kowloon and Lappa ...	191,344	186,609
Lungchow, Mengtze, Sze-mao, and Tángyueh ...	104,663	66,400

Total 9,580,230 9,152,897
The total for the quarter at Shanghai was Hk. Tls. 3,485,403 against Hk. Tls. 2,592,384 in the same quarter of 1903.

COMMERCIAL.

The Yokohama Prices Current and Market Report, published by the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade, dated February 28th, has the following:—

IMPORTS.

Yarns.—No change. **Shirtings.**—Greys and Whites have been taken, but only on a retail scale. **Fancy Cottons and Woollens.**—In Fancy Cottons, a few orders have been placed for Velvets, Cotton Sateens, and Victoria Lawns, but the upward movement in Manchester has operated against business in the last two classes of cotton manufactures. In Woollens and Mixtures there has been no change since last Report, but arrivals are quickly taken up, and some forward business has been done. **Metals.**—The market has been quiet, and the business transacted during the past fortnight has been small. **Kerosene.**—Market very dull, with a downward tendency. **Sugar.**—The market has been very quiet, and no business has been put through, either in imported Refined or Raw. Consumption is being greatly curtailed by the high prices ruling, which are due not so much to the enhanced first cost as to the heavy taxes imposed. The auction of the Tokyo Refinery Sugar on the 26th instant, resulted in the sale of 3,400 piculs at an advance of three sen per picul. **Indigo.**—There is still no movement.

EXPORTS.

Raw Silk.—A fair demand has continued during the last fortnight at steady prices, but at the close things are again slightly easier. Available stocks are, however, very poorly assorted, and desirable parcels difficult to obtain. Spring Reelings have already begun to appear in the market, and about 10,000 bales are expected to arrive before the end of the season.

Tea.—No change. Total settlements from May 1st to February 28th amount to 178,600 piculs, against 194,800 piculs at the corresponding date last year.

Foochow, 17th February.—The Season being finished, this is the final Circular published by the Foochow General Chamber of Commerce. No settlements have taken place since last Circular. The total Export as per Customs Return is:—

	1904-1905.	1903-1904.
	lbs.	lbs.
Europe	14,097,804	10,816,045
South America	161,934	155,087
Australia and New Zealand	1,252,170	1,597,940
United States and Canada	6,594,436	9,453,303
South Africa	194,660	590,500
Coast Southward	421,165	2,878,833
Coast Northward	3,366,008	7,860,151
	26,088,257	32,651,619

Messrs. Bandinel & Co.'s Market Report, dated Newchwang, 6th March, 1905, states:—The cart traffic during the winter has been seriously affected by warlike operations; and stocks in port are estimated at the following:—

Beans, Yellow and Green	480,000 piculs.
" Small	2,400 "
" Green	1,600 "
Bean Oil	47,000 "
Large Millet	30,000 "
Small "	3,000 "
General Cargo	about 4,000 pkgs.

Besides which about 100,000 piculs Beans have been shipped from Chinwangtao. Stocks of Beans at the principal depots in the interior are estimated at 1,785,000 piculs, and it is feared that the quantity available before next fall, including stocks now in port, will not exceed 3,000,000 piculs. Owing, among other causes, to the depreciated value of Transfer money, prices are higher than ever before. We quote:—

Beans, Green & Yellow, per 3 piculs	Tls. 14.50
" Small, " 3 "	" 24.00
" Green, " 3 "	" 14.00
Large Millet, " 3 "	" 13.00
Small " " 3 "	" 18.00
Beancakes, " 10 pieces	" 17.50
Bean Oil, " picul	" 15.00

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 17th March.—The prices are slightly declining, market being dull.

Shenklong, No. 1, White	\$9.10 to \$9.15 pils.
Do. " 2, White	7.80 to 7.90 "
Do. " 1, Brown	6.65 to 6.70 "
Do. " 2, Brown	6.45 to 6.50 "
Swatow, No. 1, White	8.40 to 8.45 "
Do. " 2, White	7.50 to 7.60 "
Do. " 1, Brown	6.50 to 6.55 "
Do. " 2, Brown	6.45 to 6.50 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	13.15 to 13.20 "
Shenklong "	12.25 to 12.30 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 17th March.—Stock accumulating, the prices are going downward.

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.00 to \$2.05
" Round, good quality	3.70 to 3.75
" Long	3.80 to 3.85
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.80 to 2.85
" Garden, " No. 1	2.70 to 2.75
" White,	3.95 to 4.00
" Fine Cargo	4.20 to 4.25

Messrs. W. G. Hale & Co.'s Circular, dated Saigon 10th March, 1905, states:—Demand is limited and we have no business of importance to report. A few cargoes have been sold to the neighbouring markets, but prices are still too high for business with Europe; nevertheless, they remain steady and have even an upward tendency owing to the small arrivals of Paddy from the Interior.

We quote for March to April shipment:—

No. 2 White sifted (trié) steam per picul	
milled (mixed)	\$3.22
No. 2 White unsifted (ordinaire) Steam	
milled (mixed)	\$2.85
5 % Cargo steam milled (mixed)	\$2.71
10 % Cargo steam milled "	\$2.66
20 % Cargo steam milled "	\$2.66

OPIUM.

17th March.

Quotations are:— Allow'ce net. to 1 catty.	
Malwa New	\$1130 to — per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1180 to — do.
Malwa Older	\$1280 to — do.
Malwa V. Old	\$1360 to — do.
Persian fine quality	\$900 to — do.
Persian extra fine	\$930 to — do.
Patna New	\$1137½ to — per chest.
Patna Old	\$ — to — do.
Benares New	\$1075 to — do.
Benares Old	\$ — to — do.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, March 8th, 1905.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

Cowhides, Best Selected	Tls. 86.00
Do. Seconds	82.00
Buffalo hides, Best Selected	18.50
Goatskins, Untanned, chiefly white color	55.00
Buffalo Horns, average 3-lbs. each	9.00
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	11.50
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayu	10.50
Green China Grass, Szechuen	—
Jute	—
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	9.80
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow	9.50
and/or Macheng	8.00
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	11.50
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	10.00
Animal Tallow	17.50
Gallnuts, Usual shape	18.50
Do. Plum do.	—
Tobacco, Tingchow	(nominal) Tls.
Do. Woukong	(") "
Black Bristles	(nom.)
Feathers, Grey and/or White Duck	21.00
" Wild Duck	25.00
Turneric	3.00
Sesamum Seed	4.30
Sesamum Seed Oil	7.90
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	7.90
Wood Oil	8.00
Tea Oil	9.00

Per P. & O. steamer *Bengal*, sailed on 11th March. For Glasgow:—1 case ginger. For Manchester:—800 bales waste silk. For London:—11 cases hats, 2 cases birds feathers, 5 cases private effects, 1 case cigars, 75 packages tea, 60 bales raw silk, 2 packages cundries, 115 bales waste silk, 1 case silk embroideries. For Milan:—80 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—170 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—100 bales waste silk, 148 bales raw silk, 2 cases feathers. For Gibraltar:—1 case silverware and silk. For Malta:—1 case cigars.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 17th March, 1905. — There has been more activity in our market during the past week, and a fair general business has been transacted. Banks show a further advance, and China Sugars have also appreciated in value.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have continued in demand, and sales up to \$750 have been effected, market closing with further buyers. London quotes £77. Nationals have sold at \$36 and are still enquired for.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have sold at \$695 and are still obtainable. China Traders have again been booked at \$58½. Cantons, after advancing to \$27½, are slightly easier with probable sellers at \$235. North Chinas and Yangtszes are unchanged.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have been booked at \$315 and \$310, and close with sellers at the higher rate. Chinas are procurable at \$36 after sales at the rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue in the market at \$26½. Indos have been booked at \$122 to \$124 cash and for the settlement, closing with probable buyers at \$124 and sellers at \$124½. Shanghai quotes Tls. 90 and London £12. Douglases can be placed at \$31, and China and Manilas at \$22. Star Ferries and Shell Transports are unchanged.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been booked at \$225 to \$230 cash and for settlement, account, and close firm with buyers at the higher rate. Luxons continue in request at \$25.

MINING.—Rauhs have again been fixed at \$4. Charbonnages unchanged and without business.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been placed at \$207 and close steady. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have improved to \$105 buyers. New Amoy Docks continue on offer at \$27. Farnhams, after advancing to Tls. 145, close easier with sellers at Tls. 144. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves are firmer at Tls. 152 and Tls. 149 for the old and new issues respectively.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been booked at \$127 and are still enquired for. Kowloon Lands have improved to \$39 buyers. Hongkong Hotels can be placed at \$142. West Points are on offer at \$55½, and Humphreys' Estates at \$12.00, the latter after sales at \$11.90. Shanghai Lands are steady at Tls. 115.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkongs have improved to \$15 buyers. No local transactions are reported in the Northern stocks.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Campbell, Moores have dropped to \$39 sellers. China Borneos are procurable at \$14½. Dairy Farms continue in request at \$12, and Green Island Cements at \$29. Electrics have improved to \$16 and \$87 for the old and new issues respectively, with buyers. Tramways are wanted at \$210, and South China Morning Posts at \$23.

MEMOS.—China Sugar Refinery Co., Ltd., and Luzon Sugar Refinery Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meetings on the 23rd instant. China and Manila Steamship Co., Ltd. ordinary yearly meeting on the 25th instant, transfer books closed from the 22nd to 25th instant inclusive. Geo. Fenwick & Co., Ltd., extraordinary general meeting on the 31st instant, transfer books closed from the 24th to 31st instant inclusive. Campbell, Moore & Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 31st instant, transfer books closed from the 19th to 31st instant inclusive. Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd., ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 28th instant, transfer books closed from the 22nd to 28th instant inclusive.

Closing quotations are as follows:

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100, buyers
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$750, buyers London, £77
National B. of China		
A. Shares	28	\$36, sales & buyers
B. Shares	28	\$36, sales & buyers
Founders	21	\$10.
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$54.
China-Borneo Co.	12	\$14, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$9, sales
China Provident	\$10	\$8, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 27, buyers
Hongkong	\$10	\$15.
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 25, sales
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 30, sales
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 150, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$12, sales & buyers
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 144, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$105, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$207, sales
New Amoy Dock	\$50	\$27, sellers
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 152.
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 149.
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$36, ex div., sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$29, sales & buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$160, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$16, buyers
Do. New	\$5	\$94, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$210, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$141, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$242, sellers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$50	\$155.
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$18, sales & sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$285.
China Fire	\$20	\$86, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$58, sales
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$315, sellers
North China	\$25	Tls. 95, sellers
Union	\$100	\$695, sales & sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$160.
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$127, buyers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$12, sellers
Do. New	\$10	\$10.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$39, buyers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 115.
West Point Building	\$50	\$55, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490.
Raub	18/10	\$4, sales
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$9, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$280.
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$25, buyers
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$22, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$34.
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$28, sellers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$124, buyers
Shell Transport Co.	\$1	\$22, sellers
Do. Preference	\$10	\$28. 10
Star Ferry	\$10	\$37, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$29, sellers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$50	\$50
South China M. Post	\$25	\$23, buyers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$7, buyers
Do. New	\$3	\$4, buyers
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$39, sellers
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$12, sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$8, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12, sales & buy.
Do. Founders	\$10	\$12, sales & buyers
Do. Founders	\$10	\$9.
Do. Founders	\$10	\$180.

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset and Co.'s Share Report for the week ending March 9th, 1905, states:—We have to report a fair business during the past week. The principal feature in the market has been a further decline in S. C. Farnham, Boyd's shares and in Langkats. In both those stocks covering orders have been the rule of the day, holders giving way to short sellers covering. The T. T. sight rate on London to-day is 2/7. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. We have no local transactions to report; the market continues firm at \$730. Marine and Fire Insur-

ance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas opened the beginning of the week with sales for March at Tls. 90 and 90, and for June at Tls. 93. The market readily opened and cash shares were placed at Tls. 89, and 89, 88, for March. March shares at the time of writing are obtainable at Tls. 88 with buyers at Tls. 87; and sales for June at Tls. 90. Shanghai Tug and Lighters Ordinary shares have been placed at Tls. 53, Pref. Tls. 49, and 49. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyds. The market opened on the 2nd with sales for March at Tls. 149, 150; April Tls. 151; on the 3rd sales for March Tls. 147, 148; on the 4th Tls. 144 for cash, Tls. 146, 145, 144 for March; Tls. 146, 145 April; Tls. 146 May; on the 6th cash shares were placed at Tls. 142, with sales for March Tls. 143 and 143; for April Tls. 144 and 145; May Tls. 145 and 146; June Tls. 147 and 146. On the 7th cash shares at Tls. 142; for March Tls. 142, 142 and 143; on the 8th March Tls. 142, and April Tls. 143. The market closes with small buyers at Tls. 141 for March, whilst Tls. 140 is freely offered for large lots. S. & H. Wharves. The market has been steady throughout the week with sales at Tls. 175, 177, March, with sales of new at Tls. 142, and 145. The market closes quieter with shares offering at Tls. 175 c.n.i. Sugars.—Transactions are reported in Luzons at \$22.50 and Paraks at Tls. 52.50. Mining.—Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. Bearer shares have been placed at Tls. 7.75 and 7.85. Weihaiwei Golds at \$6; shares are offering at this rate. Lands.—Shanghai Lands have been placed at Tls. 115 and are offering at this rate. Weihaiwei Land and Building Co., Ltd. The meeting of the company took place yesterday and the accounts presented, and all things considered was very satisfactory, although no dividend was declared, the balance after sundry writings off being carried forward. Industrial.—In cotton stocks the only business reported is International Cottons at Tls. 25 and 25, March delivery. The annual meeting of the Soy Chee Co., took place on the 7th inst. The profit on the working of the year amounted to Tls. 80,523.29, after the usual deductions the amount available at the credit of the profit and loss account, inclusive of the sum of Tls. 26,380.77 brought forward from last year, amounted to Tls. 49,124.79. Further writing off from machinery and furniture accounts reduced this to Tls. 22,000 which is carried forward to a new account. Shanghai Paper and Pulp have been placed at Tls. 144, ex. div. Gas at Tls. 115, 117. Green Island Cements at \$30. Anglo German Brewery at \$112. Maatschappij, etc., in Langkat shares have been placed during the week at Tls. 267, 265 and 262, April Tls. 272, 268, June Tls. 176, 277, 270; July 272. Sumatras have been placed at Tls. 73. Stores and Hotels.—Lane and Crawford Shares have been placed at \$130. Mondon \$16 and later 20 for March. Hotel des Colonies Tls. 20 and 22 for June. Miscellaneous.—C. Imp. and Ex. Lumber Co. Shares have been placed at Tls. 115. Telephones remain at Tls. 68. Loans and Debentures.—Astor House 8 per cent. debentures have been placed at \$102. Waterworks 6 per cent. at par; and Shanghai Municipal 6 per cent. at par.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 20th March.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10, 5/16
Bank Bills, on demand	1/1, 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10, 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10, 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10, 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10, 1/2
ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand	234
Credits 4 months' sight	238
ON GERMANY.—On demand	190
ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand	45
Credits, 60 days' sight	46
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	138
Bank, on demand	138
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	138
Bank, on demand	138
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	71
Private, 30 days' sight	72
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	91
ON MANILA.—On demand	91
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	6 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	11 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	1 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	1 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	61
SEVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.65
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$56
BAR SILVER, per oz.	26 1/2

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

March—	
ARRIVALS.	
10, Athonian, British str., from Vancouver.	
10, Bengal, British str. from Shanghai.	
10, Daiya Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.	
10, Gaea, German str., from Bangkok.	
10, Gurnsey, Norwegian str., from Cardiff.	
10, Hampstead, British str., from Barry.	
10, Hugin, Norwegian str., from Wuhu.	
10, Nubia, British str., from Bombay.	
10, Onsang, British str., from Samarang.	
10, Taming, British str., from Manila.	
11, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.	
11, Confidanza, Italian str., from Moji.	
11, Dotti, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.	
11, Eastern, British str., from Kobe.	
11, Glory, British battleship, from Mirs Bay.	
11, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.	
11, Iphigenia, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.	
11, Kaifong, British str., from Cebu.	
11, M. Rickmers, German str., from Bangkok.	
11, Ocean, British battleship, from Mirs Bay.	
11, Sungkiang, British str., from Iloilo.	
11, Sutlej, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.	
11, Taishan, British str., from Saigon.	
11, Tridmph, German str., from Coast Ports.	
12, Andromeda, British str., from Mirs Bay.	
12, Dageid, Norwegian str., from Newport.	
12, Eiger, Norwegian str., from Canton.	
12, Eva, German str., from Canton.	
12, Giang Bee, British str., from Samarang.	
12, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.	
12, Kwangtab, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
12, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.	
12, Paknam, German str., from Bangkok.	
12, Skuld, Norwegian str., from Canton.	
12, Tungshing, British str., from Canton.	
12, Venetia, British str., from Cardiff.	
13, Aldgate, British str., from Penarth.	
13, Australian, British str., from Australia.	
13, Borneo, British str., from Singapore.	
13, Borneo, German str., from Sandakan.	
13, Boscombe, British str., from Durban.	
13, Changsha, British str., from Kobe.	
13, Chunsang, British str., from Hongay.	
13, Fido, Norwegian str., from Cardiff.	
13, Lydia, German str., from Wuhu.	
13, Nassovia, German str., from Hamburg.	
13, Ras Mora, British str., from Colombo.	
13, Reidar, British str., from Cardiff.	
13, Umballa, British str., from Rangoon.	
13, W. Bridge, British str., from London.	
13, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.	
13, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.	
14, Alcious, British str., from Liverpool.	
14, Castor, Norwegian str., from Singapore.	
14, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.	
14, Clara Jubsen, German str., from Canton.	
14, Emma Luyken, Ger str., from Cheribon.	
14, Empr. of China, Brit. str., from Vancouver.	
14, Hopsang, British str., from Saigon.	
14, Opland, Norw. str., from Chingwantao.	
14, Pollux, Norwegian str., from Rajang.	
14, P. Heinrich, German str., from Hamburg.	
14, Soerabaya, Ger. str., from Bremerhaven.	
14, Stentor, British str., from Shanghai.	
14, Suisang, British str., from Calcutta.	
14, Willehad, German str., from Sydney.	
14, Wosang, British str., from Canton.	
15, Japan, British str., from Shanghai.	
15, Minnesota, Amr. str., from Seattle.	
15, Patroclus, British str., from Shanghai.	
15, Phranang, German str., from Bangkok.	
15, Princess Alice, Ger. str., from Shanghai.	
15, Wongkoi, German str., from Swatow.	
15, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
15, Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.	
15, Pleiades, Amr. str., from Tacoma.	
15, Proteus, German str., from Moji.	
15, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Amoy.	
16, A. G. Ropes, Amr. ship, from Philadelphia.	
16, B. Bjornson, Norw. str., from Tamsui.	
16, Clavering, British str., from Selma Cruz.	
16, Faimun, British str., from Coast Ports.	
16, Hae, French str., from Haiphong.	
16, Lysamoon, German str., from Shanghai.	
16, Oants, British str., from Liverpool.	
16, Bancocora, British str., from Rangoon.	
16, Bogstad, Norw. str., from Chinkiang.	
16, Erna, German str., from Germany.	
16, M. Struve, German str., from Saigon.	
16, Zaida, British str., from Singapore.	
17, Ceylon, British str., from London.	
17, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.	
17, Hongbee, British str., from Straits.	

18, Belra, British str., from London.
 18, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 18, Ferdene, British str., from Rangoon.
 18, Himsang, British str., from Saigon.
 18, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 18, Korea, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
 18, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
 18, Paklat, German str., from Bangkok.
 18, Tean, British str., from Manila.
 18, Tolman, German str., from Sabang.
 19, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 19, Needles, British str., from Moji.
 19, Rhénania, German str., from Shanghai.
 19, Slavonia, German str., from Hamburg.

March DEPARTURES.
 9, Store Nordiske, Danish str., for a cruise.
 10, Bourbon, German str., for Saigon.
 10, Hohnstein, German str., for Moji.
 10, Hugin, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 10, Hupoh, British str., for Newchwang.
 10, Keongwai, German str., for Bangkok.
 10, Loongtang, British str., for Manila.
 10, Petrarch, German str., for Newchwang.
 10, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 10, Sambia, German str., for Hamburg.
 10, Silesia, German str., for Shanghai.
 10, Surada, British str., for Yokohama.
 10, Taiwan, British str., for Ningpo.
 10, Tingsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, Aborgeldie, British str., Diamond Island.
 11, Aragonia, German str., for Portland.
 11, Bengal, British str., for Europe.
 11, Decima, German str., for Swatow.
 11, Dr. H. J. Kiser, Dut. str., for Haiphong.
 11, Guernsey, Norwegian str., for Sasebo.
 11, Hampstead, British str., for Sasebo.
 11, Manchuria, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
 11, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
 11, Nubia, British str., for Shanghai.
 11, Queen Louise, British str., for Rangoon.
 11, Ruth, British str., for Moji.
 11, Tootan, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 12, Elisabeth Riekma, Ger. str., for Swatow.
 12, Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Tamsui.
 12, Pittanulo, German str., for Bangkok.
 12, Tientsin, British str., for Kobe.
 13, Astraea, British cruiser, for Shanghai.
 13, Eastern, British str., for Australia.
 13, Fooshing, British str., for Singapore.
 13, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Canton.
 13, Macquarie, British str., for Saigon.
 13, Venetia, British str., for Nagasaki.
 14, Apenrade, German str., for Haiphong.
 14, Daiya Maru, Japanese str., for Nagasaki.
 14, Eva, German str., for Saigon.
 14, Gaea, German str., for Bangkok.
 14, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 14, Lanshan, German str., for Shanghai.
 14, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
 14, Lisa, Swedish str., for Chinkiang.
 14, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 14, Progress, German str., for Paracels.
 14, Rajaburi, German str., for Amoy.
 14, Skuld, Norwegian str., for Uhefoo.
 14, Taming, British str., for Manila.
 14, Tetartos, German str., for Saigon.
 14, Tungshing, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Alcious, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Athenian, British str., for Vancouver.
 15, Australian, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Changsha, British str., for Australia.
 15, Dotti, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 15, Eiger, Norwegian str., for Chinkiang.
 15, Giang Bee, British str., for Kobe.
 15, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 15, Ischia, Italian str., for Bombay.
 15, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
 15, Raa-Mora, British str., for Kobe.
 15, Steator, British str., for London.
 15, Triumph, German str., for Coast Ports.
 15, Umballa, British str., for Yokohama.
 15, Yuenanng, British str., for Manila.
 16, Gloneak, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Haitan, French str., for Hoihow.
 16, Helstein, German str., for Kinaochou.
 16, Iphigenia, British cruiser, for Amoy.
 16, Japan, British str., for London.
 16, Kaifong, British str., for Hilo.
 16, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 16, Nansovia, German str., for Shanghai.
 16, Opland, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 16, Patrolun, British str., for London.
 16, Princess Alice, German str., for Europe.
 16, Willhad, German str., for Kobe.
 16, Womag, British str., for Tientsin.
 17, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Jelunga, British str., for Yokohama.
 17, Lyceum, German str., for Canton.

17, M. Riekma, German str., for Swatow.
 18, Banocora, British str., for Yokohama.
 18, Ceylon, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Laertes, British str., for Saigon.
 11, Taishan, British str., for Amoy.
 18, Tjimahi, Dutch str., for Balik Papan.
 18, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
 19, Borneo, British str., for Kobe.
 19, B. Bjornson, Norwegian str., for Tamsui.
 19, Chunyang, British str., for Swatow.
 19, Ferdene, British str., for Yokohama.
 19, Oania, British str., for Tacoma.
 19, Paknam, German str., for Bangkok.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.
 Per Bengal, from Shanghai, Mr. A. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Furness, Mr. R. Duns More, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Gillison and 3 children, Rev. H. Newcomb, Mr. T. A. McLean, Rev. A. G. McFarlane, Messrs. G. Langlands, James Budgen, H. Hagen, M. Randt, A. Hosie, H. A. Holmes, H. A. Little, Dovikoff, Mrs. Telsigoff, Mr. and Mrs. Tolmakoff and child, Messrs. Kogan, Lipping, Goubanoff, Mr. and Mrs. Dougall, Mr. McGinn, Mr. and Mrs. Illies, Mrs. Harder and 2 children, Mr. V. F. Deacon, Mr. E. Rangel, Messrs. F. Brandt, T. Mitchell, R. Allan, O. Harding, Arthur Emery, Davis Leitop, Wm. Thomas, George Pearce, and Edwin Owen.
 Per Athenian, from Yokohama, Messrs. John Doughty, T. Tabee, and W. Kawasaki; from Nagasaki, Messrs. Emile Bez, B. F. Dixon, Capt. and Mrs. Passmore; from Shanghai, Mr. Ross, Rev. Robert, Rev. W. G. Walshe, and Mr. Gibson.
 Per Nubia, from Bombay, &c., for Hongkong, Messrs. McLennan, Darnell, Eustacally, Marks and servant; for Shanghai, Messrs. Ruston, Irani, Shallard, Fageland; from London, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Wheal and child, Rogers and infant, Wanberg, Mrs. Dulling & two children, Miss Wanberg, Miss Hoffstot and companion, Miss Evans, Miss Thome, Capt. Owen, Messrs. Tolland, Paterson, Thomson, Twiner, Coldwell, Watt, Lapage, Marshall, Shute; for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. John and child, Mrs. McArthur, Miss Jephson, Rev. McKenzie; Messrs. McMurdo, Higging, Woolcott, Skot-tonel, Palmer; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. S. Seton, Master Singleton, Capt. Somerville; from Marseilles, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Shea, Mrs. Smith, Stevens, Roberts, Chaffie, Temple Potts, Miss David, Ven. Jeffries; for Shanghai, Messrs. Marks, Stegoar; from Port Said, for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Lee; for Hongkong, from Gibraltar, Col. Cunningham; from Malta, Mr. Brown; from Brindisi, Mrs. Colles, Mrs. Triffet; from Singapore, Sergt. and Mrs. Q. M. Francis and four children, Hon. and Mrs. Murray, Lord Hawke, Messrs. Haselton, Cornville, Benson, Binder, Musoo, Cunningham, Wood, Hannon, Brock, Tsun; from Colombo, Miss Fageland; and from Marseilles, for Yokohama, Mr. Lewis.
 Per Australian, from Sydney for Hongkong, Messrs. R. Wilcox, Harrild, Gibb, Mr. and Mrs. Bloomfield, Mrs. S. R. Bloomfield, Mrs. St. John George, Messrs. G. Topham, Wilson, P. Cornwell, and Glee; for Shanghai, Miss Ford, Messrs. McAllister and Fitzgerald; for Kobe, Mrs. King; for Yokohama, Mr. Wiegall and Dr. Macgregor; from Brisbane for Shanghai, Messrs. F. Forsyth and J. Brown; from Thursday Island for Kobe, Mr. W. D. Roach; from Manila for Yokohama, Dr. and Mrs. Yegawa, Mrs. Ume Dobastu and child, and Mrs. Okumura.
 Per Empress of China, from Vancouver, Mr. J. L. McPherson, Capt. G. A. Forsaith, Messrs. W. Helms and J. H. McGaffie; from Yokohama, Staff-Surgeon R. J. McKeown, R.N.; from Shanghai, Mr. Breffand, Mrs. G. St. John, Mr. Alex. Ross, Rev. W. A. Robins, and Mr. V. P. Garcia.
 Per Willhad, from Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Aldred, Messrs. Frey, Theodor Haass, Rev. Father Kleintitschen, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Leoren, Mr. V. L. Leoren, Miss Leoren, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Lies, Rev. Father Linckens, Messrs. Thomas Miller, Shunji Miyao, Otto Philipps, W. Schmidt, and Lieut. Th. Schmidt.
 Per Prinz Heinrich, from Hamburg, Governor and Mrs. Gueritz, Mr. G. Maclean, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Victor, Mr. and Mrs. Matheson, Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Hicks, Mr. and Mrs. Barreta, Dr. W. Behn, Misses C. A.

Olding, C. M. Sullivan, A. M. Manning, H. L. Manning, H. D. Manning, Johnston, L. A. Eyre, A. Forge, Freegard, and Kirkby, Dr. J. A. Otto, Messrs. W. Bull, A. Stricker, Phay Sri Sahadlieb and son, Miss M. Kränenburg, Mrs. Osayo, and Mrs. Osizu.
 Per Princess Alice, from Yokohama, Messrs. Ito, Tsatin, and Tsatshini; from Nagasaki, Messrs. Prevot, P. Chaumeton, F. Chacallett, and Nichigori; from Shanghai, Mrs. Lepan, Messrs. A. W. Taylor, Asgard, and Single, Miss Lily Davies, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson.
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Per Willhad, for Kobe, Messrs. Hayashida, Madsumoto, and Tanaka; for Yokohama, Mr. J. Yamawaki.

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